

Mahdi falls in bloodless coup

Paratrooper Bashir rejects Nimeiri

CAIRO, June 30, (Agencies): A little-known paratroop commander led Army units in a coup against the Sudanese government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi today and promptly proclaimed himself prime minister, defence minister and chief of the armed forces. Khartoum residents and the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

No bloodshed was reported from the post-midnight coup. The coup leader, Brig. Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, also ordered a ban on all political parties, political activities and newspapers, proclaimed a nation-wide state of emergency and

imposed a 6 pm curfew across Sudan, according to reports from Khartoum.

"Dear honourable citizens, the national salvation revolution is a ... revolution of the people against injustice, corruption, partisanship and factionalism," Bashir said in a statement on the official Radio Omdurman.

"It is a nationally oriented revolution, not tilted toward the right or left, nor is it a May revolution," he said. The last was a reference to the May 1969 revolution of deposed ruler Jaafar Nimeiri.

Residents reached by telex said military units began moving into the capital at about 4 am, quickly positioning themselves around the

Chinese 'fix' toll; Be firm: UK MPs

BEIJING, June 30, (Agencies): The government today revised its casualty toll for the citywide uprising in Beijing ignited by the June 3 military onslaught on pro-democracy protesters, announcing that more than 200 civilians and "dozens" of soldiers and police were killed.

State media quoted Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong as saying more than 3,000 civilians and in excess of 6,000 security personnel were wounded.

Chen added that anti-government activities were still continuing in the city, but did not elaborate. However, Western diplomats said witnesses observed the bodies of two soldiers being fished out of a canal in northeastern Beijing earlier in the week.

The new casualty toll conflicted with earlier official tallies and is disputed by unofficial estimates that say thousands of people died fighting troops who stormed into Beijing to enforce martial law and end a peaceful 22-day student sit-in at Tiananmen Square.

Chinese sources, meanwhile, said police have arrested two of seven intellectuals named in secret detention orders and that three others were believed to be in custody. The remaining two are known to have escaped China and fled to the West.

Separate Chinese sources reported the arrests of two staffers of the Shanghai-based World Economic Herald, a progressive newspaper that advocated innovative market-oriented reforms. They said control of the newspaper has been given to the Communist Party's propaganda department.

In another development, the leadership of China's rubber-stamp Parliament stripped ousted Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang from his post as vice-chairman of the government military commission, his last official remaining position.

A parliamentary committee urged Britain today to ensure that China does not station troops in Hong Kong after the colony returns to Chinese rule in 1997 and to take a firmer hand in its dealings with Beijing.

"We affirm that we do not want to see the PLA (People's Liberation Army) in Hong Kong," committee chairman David Howell told a news conference at which the report was presented.

But the all-party committee's report, issued against a background of anger and worry in the colony after China's crackdown on dissent, backed the government's refusal to give right of residence in Britain to 3.25 million Hong Kong citizens classified as British subjects.

It urged the government to secure international guarantees from its European Economic Community partners and other countries to take Hong Kong people if Beijing broke its agreement on the colony's future and provoked an exodus.

The recommendations go beyond assurances the government has so far been willing to offer to the colony following China's suppression of pro-democracy activists.

Canada announced today that it was withdrawing from three Chinese development projects and was taking other measures to protest against the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

West Germany has frozen more than DM200 million (\$100 million) in economic development aid to China.



...At last

RAFAH, Gaza Strip, June 30, (Reuters): Amid hugs and tears, Maryam Al Hameida, 53, was finally reunited with her Palestinian family in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday after a seven-year wait in Egypt.

Hameida is the first of some 4,800 refugees in Canada Camp, which Israel handed back to Egypt in 1982 under their peace treaty, to be allowed to return to the Gaza Strip.

"Palestine is my country and Egypt is my home too, but no place is better than where your family lives," said Hameida, a widow whose life has been scarred by the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Israel adamantly opposes Palestinian demands for a "right of return" for Arab refugees dispersed since the 1948 Middle East war. The Jewish state allows family reunification only in exceptional cases.

The political symbolism was not lost on Hameida's family.

"It has a meaning, this is the right of return," said her son Ibrahim, 41, a Rafah resident who works as a labourer in Israel. Her other son, Fathi, 32, has been unemployed since Israeli troops broke his hand during the Palestinian uprising. (Reuters wirephoto)

Doctors losing Marcos after op

HONOLULU, June 30, (Agencies): Doctors removed a transplanted kidney from former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, who was battling for survival with the aid of life-support equipment, a hospital official said.

Marcos was semi-comatose in very critical condition and dependent on dialysis following yesterday's hour-long operation at St Francis Medical Centre, officials said.

Assistant hospital administrator Eugene Tiwanak said Marcos could survive indefinitely with the use of a dialysis machine, which performs the functions of a kidney by removing impurities from the blood.

However, the prognosis remained poor, Tiwanak said.

Doctors decided yesterday that a fever Marcos had might be caused by an infection resulting from the body's rejection of a kidney transplant he received in 1984, Tiwanak said.

Marcos' second kidney does not function, Tiwanak said.

Humans have a pair of kidneys, which extract water and waste products from the blood and excrete them as urine through the bladder. One kidney must function properly for survival without dialysis.

The 71-year-old exiled leader, hospitalised since Jan 15, suffered liver failure Wednesday and ran a fever as high as 104°F (40°C), said Tiwanak. In May, he suffered heart, lung and kidney failure.

In addition to a dialysis machine, Marcos was hooked up to a respirator and other life-support equipment, he said.

"He's the sickest he's ever been," a hospital source told the Associated Press.

One of Marcos' doctors, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the exiled former leader's condition has generally worsened over the last five months.

"It's like a stair step," the doctor said. "He gets worse, levels off, gets worse and levels off, but sooner or later he'll fall off the steps."

While the kidney was being removed, Marcos' wife, Imelda, and two of their three children, Ferdinand Jr. and Irene Araneta, attended mass in the hospital chapel.

Marcos was slightly better early today after the operation, but still in "very critical" condition, Imelda said.

"He's a little better. Just so-so. Still very critical," Imelda said today as she left the hospital in the morning after spending about five hours with her husband.

Imelda says she met with a federal public defender to find out how to qualify for free, court-appointed counsel in her trial on charges of looting millions of dollars from the Philippines.

The Philippine government has accused the former Philippine first lady and her husband of stealing billions of dollars.

Imelda said through a spokesman Tuesday her sources of money are drying up or are tied up in litigation.

She said she had an exploratory meeting Tuesday with federal public defender Michael Levine to discuss how she might qualify for free legal aid.

Araneta denied yesterday that she had tried to withdraw \$10 million (\$15.4 million) from a British bank and accused the Philippine government of making up the story to malign her family.

Aquino accepted the resignation of her land reform secretary today and appointed her tough-minded immigration chief to head the scandal-ridden department.

Aquino accepted the resignation of Agraria Reform Secretary Philip Juico on the recommendation of a commission appointed to investigate irregularities in the purchase of property for redistribution of landless peasants.

She named Miriam Defensor Santiago, chairman of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation, as Juico's replacement, subject to congressional approval.

The change followed allegations that Juico's department agreed to pay \$2 million pesos (\$3 million) for an estate in Camarines Sur province worth only three million pesos (\$142,000).

NEWSWATCH

Drops out

WARSAW, June 30, (Reuters): General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's ruler since 1981, announced today he was not a candidate for the new post of state president and recommended Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak for the powerful position.

"I do not plan to be a candidate," Jaruzelski said in a statement read over state television.

"Permit me to propose General Czeslaw Kiszczak for the post of president," he added.

'Killer' held

BANGKOK, June 30, (AP): Police have arrested a hired gun and charged him in the killing of a Saudi Arabian diplomat near his Bangkok embassy in January, a senior officer said yesterday.

The officer said Adnan Son-gkerwala, 31, was arrested June 22 while he was waiting outside the office of the inspector general of the Education Ministry, whom he planned to kill.

Fairuz to sing

CAIRO, June 30, (Reuters): Fairuz, one of the Arab world's top woman singers, will give three concerts in Egypt in mid-July with the sphinx and the pyramids as a backdrop, organisers said yesterday.

Fairuz, who last sang in Egypt 14 years ago, will perform on July 15, 16 and 18 on a special stage at the foot of the sphinx.

Gorby to address

MOSCOW, June 30, (Reuters): Amid reports of a high-level Kremlin policy meeting, the government newspaper Izvestia said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would speak to the country on television tomorrow.

Diplomat expelled

PRAGUE, June 30, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia has ordered a US diplomat who has close contacts with dissidents to leave the country, Western diplomatic sources said today.

Bombers

BONN, June 30, (Reuters): Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said today his country would prosecute any Palestinians suspected of involvement in the December bombing of a Pan Am airliner that killed 270 people.

Speaking on the second day of a two-day visit to Bonn, he said there was "no evidence whatsoever" Palestinian commandos planted the bomb that blew apart the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec 21.

Dole aide quits

WASHINGTON, June 30, (AP): Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole's liaison to the White House has resigned amid an investigation of an alleged homosexual prostitution ring that catered to political figures.

The investigation is based on financial records and other material seized in raids on a house in an upscale Washington neighbourhood that police say was used by escort services with names such as "Dream Boys" and "Man to Man." (Earlier Report Page 4)

Gromyko in hospital

MOSCOW, June 30, (AP): Former president and foreign minister Andrei Gromyko recently underwent surgery to correct a vascular problem and is hospitalised in satisfactory condition, a government spokesman said today.

'Death' chant passes to UK

Iran praise for Kuwait

NICOSIA, June 30, (Reuters): For the first time in a decade "Death to the Soviet Union" did not ring out on Friday at Tehran's mass prayer meeting and parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said the slogan could now be buried.

"Worshippers cursed Britain instead by shouting 'death to Britain,'" the Iranians news agency IRNA said.

Rafsanjani, giving his first sermon since a landmark visit to the Soviet Union last week, said sound relations between Tehran and Moscow could help Iran's economic development and stop the West plundering the region.

He praised the crowd for reversing a 10-year practice of calling for the death of the Soviet Union, along with that of the United States, to underline the anti-superpower stand of the late Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution.

"It is a right choice and with the level of relations we have now it would be senseless to shout such a slogan. It belonged to the past when they (the Soviet Union) did bad things," IRNA quoted him as saying.

Rafsanjani said Moscow under Mikhail Gorbachev no longer wanted to play big brother to its neighbours and Khomeini had given the impetus for improving the strained relations.

It was fortunate for Tehran's leaders that Khomeini had laid down the policy before his death on June 3, Rafsanjani said. "Otherwise it would create difficulties for us because some would question our neither-East-nor-West dictum."

After Rafsanjani's visit, Washington criticised Moscow for warning to a country which it said continued to back terrorism.

Agreements signed in Moscow include Soviet help in boosting Iran's defence capabilities.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has expressed satisfaction over Kuwait's recent positive attitude towards Iran, IRNA reported yesterday.

The remarks came in a wide-ranging interview on Iran's foreign policy broadcast by Iranian Television Wednesday evening, said IRNA.

"Iran welcomes a positive step with a positive one," Velayati said in referring to relations with Kuwait.

The agency said Velayati related "recent moves" between the two neighbouring countries to Kuwait's adoption of a "more friendly policy" towards Iran.

Six Kuwaiti crewmen, detained by the Iranian Navy for 40 days after their gunboat strayed into Iranian waters, were freed recently.

airport, key Nile river bridges, political institutions and the armed forces headquarters.

There was confusion over Sadiq's status.

A BBC reporter based in Khartoum said, Sadiq, armed forces chief Fathi Ahmed Ali and senior government ministers were rounded up during the night and taken to a Khartoum prison. He said some shooting was reported and that troops used tanks to break through the gates of at least one minister's home.

Another report said Mahdi escaped arrest.

Bashir set up a 15-man revolutionary council to run Sudan.

Radio Omdurman said the council would be Sudan's highest legislative and executive body.

Another obscure Brigadier, Al Zubeir Mohammed Saleh, was named as vice-chairman of the council. Other members included four brigadiers, six colonels, two lieutenant-colonels and one major.

Bashir earlier declared a nation-wide state of emergency.

Residents said the coup was accomplished with a minimum of resistance and that the streets were quiet by midday. "There seems to be some popular support for the coup, with cars honking their horns when they see soldiers," one hotel operator said.

Bashir, identified by MENA as the third-ranking officer in Sudan's Paratroop Corps, issued two decrees at mid-day in the name of the "National Salvation Revolution Command Council," which also called itself "National Movement for Correcting the Situation."

In the first decree, read over Radio Omdurman, Bashir suspended Sudan's 1986 constitution, dissolved Parliament and



Di ... terminated

London: Barefoot Princess Diana lost a photo-finish race for mothers at the annual school sports day of her 7-year-old son, Prince William.

The 27-year-old princess flung out her arms as

she sprinted across the tape at the Weatherby School Sports Day at Richmond Athletic Ground on Tuesday but another mother got there a step ahead. (Photo by Kent Gavin for the Daily Mirror)

Childhood's end: 'Bapu', brands and bondage

NEW DELHI, June 30, (Reuters): More than seven million children work as slaves in South Asia, some of them kidnapped and branded into bondage to live a life worse than animals, delegates to a conference on child servitude said today.

"Children between the age of six and 12 have been kidnapped and taken to the carpet industry," said Swami Agnivesh, who chairs the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, the group organising the five-day meeting in New Delhi.

"They have scars from being branded with red hot irons," Agnivesh told the conference which included delegates from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Former chief justice of India P.N. Bhagwati called them "non-beings, ciles of civilisation, living a life worse than that of animals."

"Animals at least are free to roam about as they like or can plunder or grab food when they are hungry," he said.

Children freed from bondage also attended the meeting.

Generations of families are sometimes bonded to an employer to pay off a debt that keeps growing as interest keeps compounding on the loan, said group member Kailash Satyarthi.

"These poor people cannot get out of the vicious circle of indebtedness for generations and generations together," he said.

"The children belonging to bonded labourers are born slaves," Satyarthi said. "Millions of such enslaved children have no recognition either as child labourers or bonded labourers."

"It is in-built in the system that they have to work

for their (parents') master without any wages," he said.

Agnivesh said international aid organisations believe there are at least 75 million children working under the age of 14 in South Asia and about 10 per cent are in bondage.

India abolished the bonded labour system in 1976 but Bhagwati said the law does not adequately cover "indebtedness and other economic compulsions."

More than 100,000 child slaves work in the carpet-weaving industry alone.

Children also work in bondage cutting and polishing gems, making bricks, chipping stones in quarries, hawking newspapers, picking rags, delivering glasses of tea, working as domestic servants, rolling cigarettes and making matches.

Cash row Dutch PM under fire

Lubbers defends

THE HAGUE, June 30, (Reuters): Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers denied yesterday any wrongdoing in a dispute with Kuwait over cash owed to the state and to a company which he part-owns.

up voting rights and put his shares into a trust after he became economics minister in 1973.

In a debate on the Kuwait affair, parliamentary spokesmen said that Lubbers' attempts to resolve the dispute could have given the impression he was mixing personal interests with his duties as prime minister.

They urged him to avoid further involvement — a suggestion which Lubbers accepted, although he denied any wrongdoing.

"I wanted to get the case resolved ... if parliament feels I should not get involved, of course I won't," he said.

Spokesman from all three major parties, including his own Christian Democrats, said Lubbers should have steered clear of the row over an outstanding debt by Kuwait Airways for a hangar built in 1980 by construction firm Hollandia Kluos.

Lubbers owns 40 per cent of Hollandia, a construction firm run by his brother Rob. He gave

up voting rights and put his shares into a trust after he became economics minister in 1973.

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Breast cancer Protein hope

WASHINGTON, June 30, (Reuters): US researchers said yesterday they had isolated a human protein that in the laboratory was found to stop the growth of breast cancer cells without affecting other types of human cells.

The scientists said the discovery may mark a significant advance in the search for breast cancer treatment and may ultimately help lead to a strategy for prevention of the malignancy, which currently strikes one American woman in 10.

A team of University of Michigan scientists led by Dr Max Wicha, writing in today's Science magazine, said it had isolated a human protein it believes plays a key role in the body's own system for controlling cell growth.

The team has dubbed the protein *mammatstatin* and is now trying to produce it in sufficient quantities to test it in laboratory animals and ultimately in humans, Wicha said in a telephone interview.

"*Mammatstatin*, which is produced by normal breast cells, is a potent inhibitor of breast cancer cells growing in the laboratory," Wicha said. "It specifically stops the growth of breast cancer cells but not cells from other tissues."

Wicha said he and his colleagues were now using genetic engineering techniques to try to clone the human gene responsible for producing the protein.

A revolutionary technique which will prevent babies being born with inherited disorders and spare parents the trauma of abortion has been successfully tested in Britain, it was reported today.

The researchers said the advance offers new hope to parents known to be at risk of giving birth to babies with the life-shortening lung disorder, cystic fibrosis, or with the severe muscle wasting disease, muscular dystrophy.

The experts at centres in London and West Berlin combined the skills of the test tube baby technique with advances in genetics and microsurgery to check human eggs for these common diseases.

The technique involves taking a single cell from a human embryo in a delicate process carried out under a microscope.

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Sri Lanka to fight India if troops are not pulled out

Delhi refuses to cease hostilities

COLOMBO, June 30, (Agencies): The government warned New Delhi yesterday it "will fight" if India attempts to keep its troops in the island nation by force.

"We have never been opposed to India," Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe told a news conference. "But we must solve our own problems."

"We will not give room for India to stay here, even if they bomb us. We will fight, and we are ready. (The Indian troops) must get back. If not, we are ready to put them back."

India today refused to cease hostilities against Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka and said a decision on the issue was not possible until the insurgents laid down arms and agreed to participate in democratic processes.

An Indian Foreign Ministry statement said the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated northeast province was to ensure "the physical safety and security of all communities" in the area and to meet "the legal aspirations of the Tamils."

The statement was made in response to a request by Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Premadasa asked Rajiv to order the 45,000 Indian soldiers

House turns China screw

WASHINGTON, June 30, (Agencies): The House of Representatives, in an emotional response to the "barbarian" crackdown of the struggle for democracy in China, brushed aside President Bush's objections and unanimously approved new economic sanctions against China.

Despite the appeal of Secretary of State James Baker to let Bush lead on the issue with his series of moderate penalties, house Democrats and Republicans voted 418-0 yesterday for the sanctions that restrict US commercial ties with the world's most populous nation.

Representative William Broomfield, Republican-Michigan, the ranking Republican on the foreign affairs committee and usually one of the most consistent supporters of the President, led the effort to protest the crackdown in which it is estimated hundreds and perhaps thousands of virtually unarmed youths fell before rifle fire and tanks.

"The Chinese leadership should be aware there is a very deep-seated revulsion in Congress about the barbarian tactics they have employed," Broomfield said.

The package would suspend new US trade development in China, government guarantees of private investments, arms export licences, peaceful nuclear co-operation, export of police equipment, and export of space satellites to be launched by China.

The White House says it will review sanctions against China that were approved by the House.

George Bush already has condemned the violence in China, halted all military aid and banned exchanges of military officials and high-level visits.

The House acted yesterday as 300 Chinese scientists working and studying in the United States announced on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that they were renouncing their membership in their country's Communist Party, an act they said is considered the equivalent of treason and punishable by execution.

The US House of Representatives yesterday approved a two-year bill authorising \$23 billion for foreign aid programmes around the world.

Under the aid bill 64 per cent of the 1990 money is allocated to security-related military and economic support funds. The rest of the bill is for development aid, contributions to international organisations and other international programmes.

As in previous years, much of the aid goes to Israel and Egypt. Israel gets \$3 billion in military and economic aid in the year beginning Oct 1, 1989, while Egypt receives \$2.1 billion.

The bill sets a ceiling of \$85 million a year in military aid to El Salvador — \$12 million less than requested by the Bush administration — and gives Congress a voice in releasing the money in six-month instalments after receiving reports on the human rights record of the new government of President Alfredo Christiani.



Running to safety

An unidentified man carries an eight-month-old baby to safety during a two-hour siege in the Brisbane suburb of Wynnum Thursday. Three people were killed including a two-year-old girl and a police officer. (Reuters wirephoto)

S. Korean police storm university

Students remain barricaded

SEOUL, June 30, (AP): Thousands of riot police firing teargas stormed a university today as radical students prepared to defy the government and march to a youth festival in communist North Korea.

It was the biggest single police assault on a college campus since President Roh Tae-Woo came to power 18 months ago. By nightfall, hundreds of students remained barricaded inside four classroom buildings ringed by police.

About 4,000 combat clad riot troopers charged into Seoul's Hanyang University in a surprise attack after cutting through locked campus gates with chain cutters. They raced onto the hilly campus, firing hundreds of tear gas shells from rifles and six armoured vans.

Half of the 4,000 students on the campus for the rally were already in their seats in an outdoor amphitheatre when the attack started. They fled coughing and vomiting into school buildings, woods and nearby residential areas as clouds of

choking teargas filled the campus.

Riot troopers using shields, clubs and martial arts arrested some 600 students, kicking and beating many. Students dashing through trees and into buildings fought back with steel bars, clubs and hundreds of rocks and firebombs.

Police smashed windows and charged into buildings to arrest fleeing students. About 100 students and police were injured, some seriously. One female student fell from a three-storey high wall during the fighting.

Protesters, chanting "drive out yankies" and "overthrow Roh Tae-Woo," hurled rocks from windows and rooftops.

By evening, six hours after the operation began, hundreds of students had barricaded themselves in four classroom buildings. Great piles of desks and chairs filled stairwells and entrances of occupied buildings. The campus looked like a battleground, littered with rocks, clubs, tree limbs, broken chairs and lumber used for fighting.

India was threatened over missile

NEW DELHI, June 30, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said yesterday that foreign powers threatened action against India if it test-fired a ballistic missile.

"I told them clearly that India would carry out the launching and we would not change our decision under pressure," Indian news agencies quoted Rajiv as telling a public meeting in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

India test-fired an intermediate-range "Agni" missile on May 20, an action the United States

condemned as a dangerous escalation of an arms race on the sub-continent.

Less than a week later, Washington branded India — along with Brazil and Japan — an unfair trading partner and invoked the "Super 301" provisions of the 1988 omnibus trade and competitiveness act against New Delhi.

US embassy officials insist the missile issue had nothing to do with the trade dispute.

Indian television stations will be linked to Arab-satellite by Sept 1, 1989.

deployed in Sri Lanka to stop fighting the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the militia spearheading the six-year-old war for an independent Tamil nation.

That request followed an agreement between the Colombo government and the Tigers to cease hostilities against each other. The two sides have been holding talks since last month, their first direct contact since the separatist war began in 1983.

"The latest announcement is meaningless unless it reflects the Liberation Tigers' commitment to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka," said the Foreign Ministry statement. "And to the giving up of violence, not only against the Sri Lankan government, but also against fellow Tamils and other communities in the north-east province."

The deployment of the Indian soldiers has become a contentious issue between Colombo and New Delhi. Last month, Premadasa requested India to pull out the troops by the end of July. India refused, saying a hasty withdrawal could lead to even more ethnic violence on the troubled island nation.

Meanwhile, some other Tamil groups today launched a general strike in an eastern port and imposed a "curfew" in a northern village to protest government demands for the withdrawal of Indian troops from the country, a senior military official said.

A police official said Sinhalese extremists enforcing a 19-day-old transit strike opened fire on two private buses in separate incidents just outside the capital, killing the two drivers and seriously injuring six passengers.

The incident brought to 10 the number of bus drivers killed by extremists for defying the strike and forced some private bus operators to pull their fleets off the roads.

The military official said two former rebel groups from the Tamil community forced shops, businesses, schools and government and private institutions to close in the eastern port of Trincomalee. They also imposed a "curfew" in the northern farming village of Mankulam.

The actions were staged by the Eelam National Democratic Front (ENDF) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) to protest demands by the government that India withdraw its troops from Sri Lanka.

The ENDF and the EPRLF, former rebel groups which surrendered their arms under the accord, fear that without the protection of Indian troops they will be crushed by the Tigers.

The police official said extremists from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), (People's Liberation Front), whose members belong to the majority Buddhist Sinhalese community, looted a hail of bullets at a private bus about 13 miles (19 km) north of Colombo.

Fighting in Burma kills 27

MAE SOT, Thailand, June 30, (AP): At least 25 Burmese troops and two Karen guerrillas have been killed in heavy fighting close to the Thai frontier, Thai border patrol police said today.

Another 35 Burmese and 14 Karen fighters were wounded in an attack Tuesday on the guerrilla base of Pa Loo, police said. One Burmese Army colonel was seriously wounded, they said. The sources asked not to be identified by name.

Fighting was reported today around Pa Loo, about 13 kilometres (eight miles) south of the Thai border town of Mae Sot.

Several thousand Burmese soldiers backed by heavy mortar and artillery fire began attacking Pa Loo and the nearby Karen camp of Kaw Moo Ra in May.

The Karens, with about 8,000 armed guerrilla fighters are the largest of a dozen ethnic groups which have fought a four-decade war for greater autonomy from Rangoon.

New geisha story appears Japan worried about Uno

TOKYO, June 30, (Agencies): Japan's Prime Minister Sosuke Uno was lying low today after a long-awaited report of a new sex scandal involving an underage geisha appeared in a gossip magazine.

Neither the prime minister, his personal secretary nor the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had any comment to make on the article in the popular magazine Focus.

Focus also reported that a close Uno aide was found to have belonged to a prostitution club.

Uno has vehemently denied reports that he threatened to resign earlier this week after hearing that the article was about to be published.

According to an Uno aide quoted in the article, Uno said:

"For god's sake there's no truth in it."

"To begin with, I don't have that kind of money," Uno was quoted as saying.

The article made mention of the traditional custom of ceremonial deflowering of apprentice geisha, but did not say Uno had followed the custom.

Japanese bureaucrats preparing for the Paris summit are in despair about scandal-ridden Uno and are struggling to show him in the best possible light,

senior ruling party and Foreign Ministry officials said today.

"Unfortunately there's no way we can switch prime ministers at this late stage," a senior LDP aide said today. "We have to go to the summit with our current lineup."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said: "We keep having, every day, study sessions with Mr Uno and we are confident that our government will be well represented at the summit."

Bingo Day 14

76 66 7 54

Japan plans to develop unmanned space plane

TOKYO, June 30, (AP): Japan plans to develop an unmanned space plane in the next decade and aims eventually to send its own astronauts into space aboard Japanese-made spacecraft, the Science and Technology Agency said Wednesday.

The plan was contained in a 10-year space programme adopted Wednesday by the Space Development Commission, chaired by Science and Technology Agency director-general Kishiro Nakamura.

The commission is the highest government organ planning and supervising Japanese aerospace programmes.

The 10-year plan also calls for basic research on robots capable of assembling and repairing earth-orbiting satellites, and for development of the next-generation H-2 rocket, with a two-ton capacity.

Masafumi Maekawa of the agency's space activities planning division said no exact

timetable has been set for achieving the plan's major goals.

"The pace of the development will depend on the availability of necessary funds," Maekawa said.

Japan, a late entry in the aerospace field because of prohibitions imposed by the United States at the end of World War II, is spending 155 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) on various space programmes in fiscal 1989, which started in April.

NEWS IN BRIEF

28 killed in floods

BEIJING, June 30, (Reuters): Floods sweeping southern China's Guangxi province after a week of torrential rain have left 28 people dead, the New China News Agency said today. It said the deaths occurred in Tian'e county, in the northwest of the province, where 108 houses were destroyed by flood waters and mud slides.

Bofors scandal

NEW DELHI, June 30, (KUNA): Former union law minister Shanti Bhushan today urged Indian President R. Venkatraman to sanction Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's prosecution for his alleged involvement in the Bofors scandal.

Bhushan, who was law minister during the Janata regime in the late 1970s, through a letter reminded the president of his constitutional position that in granting sanction for the prosecution of prime minister, the president must act on his own and is not bound by the advice of the council of ministers.

The Supreme Court advocate claimed that some documents recently declassified by the Swedish government showed that the Stockholm district prosecutor was convinced of the fact that the Bofors payoffs involved bribery of Indian public officials.

Nurse dies of AIDS

PARIS, June 30, (AP): A French nurse, Annie Dahan, 34, has died in the same hospital where she worked when she accidentally contracted Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, health authorities said today.

Miss Dahan died yesterday in Paris' Pitie-Salpetriere hospital. In January 1984 she pricked herself while giving a blood transfusion to a patient who later was found to have AIDS.

Bomb explosion

DHAKA, June 30, (AP): A bomb exploded yesterday outside a Bata shoe store where shoes considered offensive to Islam are sold, and two people were wounded, police said.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, which ripped open the steel doors of the closed shop in the resort town of Cox's Bazar, said a police official in Dhaka, speaking on condition of anonymity. Cox's Bazar, on the Bay of Bengal, is 185 miles (300 km) south of Dhaka.

'Rain Man' excised

HOLLYWOOD, June 30, (AP): A crucial scene from the Oscar-winning "Rain Man" has been excised from the version shown by at least 15 major airlines because the scene about aviation safety was considered unfit for passengers.

In the four-minute "Rain Man" sequence, actor Dustin Hoffman's autistic savant character refuses to board a plane because he has memorised airplane crash statistics.

Presured by his brother Charlie Babbitt, played by Tom Cruise, Hoffman's Raymond Babbitt panics and starts screaming and thrashing about.

Bus accident

ISLAMABAD, June 30, (KUNA): At least 10 people were killed and several injured when a passenger bus fell into a deep ravine near Islamabad airport today.

The accident took place at Lehtrar village in district Rawalpindi. All the injured were hospitalised.

Thief executed

BEIJING, June 30, (AP): A 36-year-old man who burgled the US consulate in Shanghai four times was executed on Wednesday, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Zhang Ping, a self-employed taxi driver, stole goods worth more than 30,000 yuan (\$3,100) from the consulate between October 1986 and February 1988, Xinhua said.

Italy crisis

ROME, June 30, (Reuters): Italy's political crisis ended its sixth week today but socialist leader Bettino Craxi dashed hopes that a solution might be found soon.

Christian Democrat (DC) Prime Minister designate Ciriaco de Mita, whose previous government was brought down by Craxi on May 19, completed a second round of consultations with political parties today.

Foreign tourists

BEIJING, June 30, (Reuters): China said today it has reopened Tibet to foreign tourists for the first time since imposing martial law in March to quell nationalist protests.

China's News Agency quoted a Tibetan travel official as saying the situation in the vast Himalayan region was now stable and tourists' safety could be assured.

2 die in blast

DHAKA, June 30, (Reuters): Two people were killed and three injured in an explosion yesterday at a clandestine bomb-making factory in southern Bangladesh, police said today.

They said the victims sold explosive to underground extremists and pirates in the Sunderbans tidal forest region on the southwest coast.

15,000 homeless

DHAKA, June 30, (Reuters): Nearly 15,000 people were left homeless over the past two weeks as the monsoon-swollen Jamuna river washed away houses in northern Bangladesh, officials said.

Money in garbage

TOKYO, June 30, (KUNA): Japanese security sources today announced a find of local currency bills, equivalent to \$1.5 million thrown in garbage in Yokohama city.

The sources added that a garbage collector found three big packages of currency notes in a small box among the industrial waste in the city.

Mine explodes

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): A World War Two mine caught in the nets of a Scottish fishing boat exploded today sinking the vessel but five men on board escaped unhurt, a Royal Navy spokesman said.

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Firm offers AIDS insurance policy

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): A British company has launched an insurance policy against AIDS yesterday, saying it provided unique cover.

Fees typical annual premium of £25 (\$40), members of "risk groups" including doctors, policemen, plumbers and firemen, can insure against catching the disease, and companies can take out policies for their employees.

Premiums vary according to a person's occupation and level of coverage. Only groups of at least 25 can apply at present, but a spokesman for insurers Layton Blackham said individuals might eventually be eligible.

Cash benefits include pay-outs of up to £75,000 (\$117,000), legal costs and a five-year treatment programme offering counselling, stress management, nutrition, exercise and relaxation therapy.

"We expect claimants to feel better, cope better and enjoy longer lives," said Ray Storey, managing director of Lifeshield Risk Management which developed the policy with Layton Blackham.

Applicants must not already carry the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus, inject drugs or practice homosexual sex, and must pledge not to infect others with the

virus deliberately.

The policy protects holders against all eventualities including catching AIDS through sex while abroad.

A Polish insurance company said last August it was offering an AIDS policy. But a spokesman for Lifeshield said the medical treatment cover made its own policy unique.

Doctors and charities greeted the new policy sceptically.

John Dawson, director of the British Medical Association's Foundation for AIDS, said it was better to avoid taking risks in the first place.

Scores of kids have no homes

WASHINGTON, June 30, (UPI): On a given night in America, the families of more than 250,000 children are homeless or doubled-up with friends or relatives, the General Accounting Office said in a June report.

The total of 254,000 homeless or "precariously" housed children does not include as many as 208,000 other children who have run away or are otherwise on their own, the GAO estimated, adding that many advocates for the homeless say the number of runaways is even higher.

The GAO estimated 68,067 children age 16 and younger — most of them 5 years old or younger — were literally homeless and 185,512 were doubled up in precarious "shared housing" circumstances on the night studied; Oct. 24, 1988.

However, the GAO noted its figures were based on an actual survey of urban shelters combined with suburban and rural figures derived from the urban survey. The results also included opinion surveys on other types of homelessness.

Because of the different kinds of figures used in the study, the GAO gave a worst-case estimate of 106,543 literally homeless children and 296,452 doubled up. In the best case it said, there may have been 41,176 literally homeless and 39,362 precariously housed.

"We were fairly struck by the size of the numbers, given that it's a one-night count," David Cordray, the study's director, said yesterday. "It's probably the case that during a given year the number would be a lot higher than that."

By comparison, the number of homeless or precariously housed children on Oct. 24 was greater than the populations of Atlantic City, New Jersey, or Galveston, Texas, or of more than a dozen state capitals, including Tallahassee, Florida, Springfield, Illinois, Topeka, Kansas, or Boise, Idaho.

Of the literally homeless children, the GAO said, 25,522 were in urban shelters, 14,427 were in suburban areas, 7,357 were in rural areas, 4,094 were housed by churches, 9,016, were in abandoned buildings, cars, or other public places, and 7,651 were in "other settings" such as detention centres.

Fifty-two per cent of the literally homeless were 5 years old or younger, 36 per cent were 6 through 12, and 12 per cent were 13 through 16, the study said.

The GAO prepared the report at the request of Sen. Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate Labour and Human Resources Committee, and Rep. Augustus Hawkins, Democrat of California and chairman of the House of Representatives Education and Labour Committee.

The study provides a comparison to figures released Feb. 13 by the Education Department, which is required to report on the number of homeless children under the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The act requires that the 50 states ensure homeless children have access to education.

The Education Department estimated there were 220,000 school-age homeless children — 170,000 in shelters or other settings and 50,000 doubled up.

However, the Education Department figures were based on state reports that the GAO said were flawed by a "lack of consistency... in the definition of homelessness and the methods used to produce estimates."

A Hispanic child is born into poverty in the United States every 3 1/2 minutes, according to a report by a Latino advocacy group that says the needs of these people are overlooked by federal policy-makers.

The report by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials released this week said 39.4 per cent of all Hispanic children are living in poverty, meaning with an income of \$11,611 for a family of four, in 1987.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Dead ringer

Gregg Siam (left) and John Morris examine a bell lifted from what is believed to be a 17th century Spanish galleon discovered near the Florida Keys. The small, corroded bell plucked from silt-covered rubble at a depth of 1,500 feet (450 metres) may herald the find of the richest ship from a treasure fleet that sank in a hurricane 350 years ago, sailors said on Wednesday.

The bronze bell, corroded through on one side, was raised by the crew of the Tampa-based research vessel Seahawk, 50 miles (80 kilometres) off Key West, where the Nuestra Señora de la Merced is believed to have gone down during a 1622 hurricane with a load of treasure.

The bell, 8 inches wide and 11 inches tall (20 centimetres wide and 28 centimetres tall), is inscribed under the lip, a marking that researchers hope will identify the sunken ship. (Reuters wirephoto)

LOS ANGELES: Actress Amy Irving has filed for divorce from filmmaker Steven Seagal.

The superior court petition cited irreconcilable differences in requesting an end to the 3 and 1/2-year marriage.

Irving's petition, filed on Wednesday by attorney Norman DeSilva, said a written agreement has disposed of the couple's property. She seeks child support and joint custody of the couple's 4-year-old son, Max. (AP)

MOSCOW: A caretaker from the Russian town of Kazan raped and killed at least seven girls, ate their flesh and even sold some of it as meat, the weekly magazine Smena said on Thursday.

The magazine described how Alenka Sakulskaya, a former criminal in his 30s or 40s who was in charge of a complex of dachas or country cottages, invited a succession of girls, one as young as 11, to his home.

First he raped them, then, with the assistance of his 25-year-old mistress Madina Shakhrova, murdered them and mutilated their bodies. The pair then cooked and ate parts of the victims and buried the rest in their garden.

Shakhrova was eventually caught and executed six years after the first murder. Shakhrova and a man, who was also involved in one of the murders, were given 15 years each. Smena did not say when the killings took place. (Reuters)

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina: A forensic specialist testified on Thursday that the late wife of former middleweight boxing champion Carlos Monzon died of multiple skull fracture in a fall.

Monzon is accused of murdering Alicia Muniz when she fell from a second-story window as the two were arguing. Summoned by the defense counsel, forensic specialist Jesus di Lorenzo said Muniz did not die from suffocation before her fall.

Di Lorenzo's testimony is important to the defense, which contends Muniz was alive before her body fell to the ground on Feb. 14.

If the defense can prove the death was unintentional, Monzon would only be subject to a jail term of a maximum of three years. The prosecution claims the murder was intentional and is asking a prison sentence of 18 years.

Monzon, who also fell from the balcony, said the two fell together accidentally while arguing. (UPI)

LOS ANGELES: Hugh Hefner takes a bride this weekend, ending the hedonistic fantasy he nourished through Playboy magazine and as pajama-clad lord of the Playboy mansion and its flocks of world-class women.

"The king of the playboys is succumbing to romance the way the rest of the country is doing. We are out of the era of play sex," observed media psychologist Joyce Brothers.

The one-night stand is over.

The 63-year-old founder of Playboy magazine and 1988 Playmate of the Year Kimberly Conrad, 26, will recite wedding vows today afternoon at the Playboy mansion in exclusive Holmby Hills. (AP)

TRENTON, New Jersey: A lawsuit in which a boy accuses Mickey Mouse of assaulting him at Walt Disney World in Florida cannot be tried in the youngster's home state, an appeals court ruled on Wednesday.

The decision upheld a Morris County trial court's ruling against Evan Makopoulos and his mother, Pamela, of Parsippany. They claimed they should be allowed to sue in New Jersey because of the difficulty of attending a trial in Florida.

The boy was 4 in 1983 when he tugged on the Mickey Mouse character's coat tails to get his attention for an autograph. Anthony Masci, a lawyer for the Makopoulos family, claims the child suffered psychological trauma and minor injuries when the person in the Mickey Mouse suit repeatedly threw him against a wall. (AP)

UNIVERSITY CITY, Missouri: Rock 'n' roll star Chuck Berry was among 10 people honoured with bronze stars along the St. Louis Walk of Fame which honours figures in St. Louis' history.

"I'm really flattered, as well as honoured, and very proud... to have this sort of compliment paid to me," Berry, 62, said during Sunday's ceremony outside the Blueberry Hill Tavern in suburban St. Louis.

Others honoured were baseball's Stan Musial, dancer Katherine Dunham, architect and engineer James R. Eads, poet T.S. Eliot, musician Scott Joplin, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh, actor Vincent Price, St. Louis post-dispatch founder Joseph Peltzer and playwright Tennessee Williams. (AP)

MOSCOW: Singer-songwriter Paul Simon says he hopes his "Graceland" concert in Moscow will help fight racism in the Soviet Union.

Simon, whose two-night engagement in Moscow ended on Sunday evening, shared the stage with top South African musicians and a Zulu choir, alternating his songs from the award-winning "Graceland" album with their pure African vocal and percussion wizardry.

Thousands of black Africans study and work in the Soviet Union. Many complain of frequently being insulted by openly hostile Soviets who see them as alien and inferior. (AP)

LONDON: A black face hat worn by Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in the final months before his overthrow and execution in 1945 fetched 48,400 pounds sterling (\$75,000) at auction on Thursday.

A spokesman for Phillips Auctioneers said the price for the hat, a distinctive part of Mussolini's swaggering image, was a record for military headgear. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: A cleaning-crew worker tried to poison his boss by dumping cyanide into a water cooler in a US Food and Drug Administration office in New York City, authorities said.

The boss didn't drink the water. But an electrician working in the building drank from the cooler and became violently ill on June 21.

The electrician was treated at a hospital but was not seriously injured.

Hector Calhoun, 25, was arraigned on Wednesday before US magistrate John Coden. (AP)

ORLANDO, Florida: A former prostitute has received her punishment by becoming infected with AIDS, a judge said in sparing her from prison.

Elizabeth Kay Sherouse, seriously ill with the deadly disease, was once charged with attempted manslaughter for having sex with two men while knowing she had the AIDS virus.

Those charges were dropped, but Sherouse, 26, appeared before Circuit Judge Michael Cynamack on Tuesday for sentencing on sex prostitution-related misdemeanours for which she could have been sentenced to more than four years in prison.

The judge placed her on four years' probation, and sent her home to spend her remaining days with her family. (AP)

NEW YORK: The gunman who killed rookie police officer Edward Byrne with five shots at close range was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison on Wednesday, becoming the fourth person convicted in the slaying to get the maximum term.

David McClary, 23, received the maximum sentence from Judge Thomas Denakas at state supreme court in the Borough of Queens, where he was convicted in the killing on June 6. He also received a concurrent 5- to 15-year term on a weapons charge.

McClary and co-defendants Scott Cobb, Todd Scott and Philip Coppeland were convicted of murdering the 22-year-old Byrne on orders from reputed drug kingpin Howard "Pope" Mason, who allegedly wanted to avenge his jailing on a weapons charge. (AP)

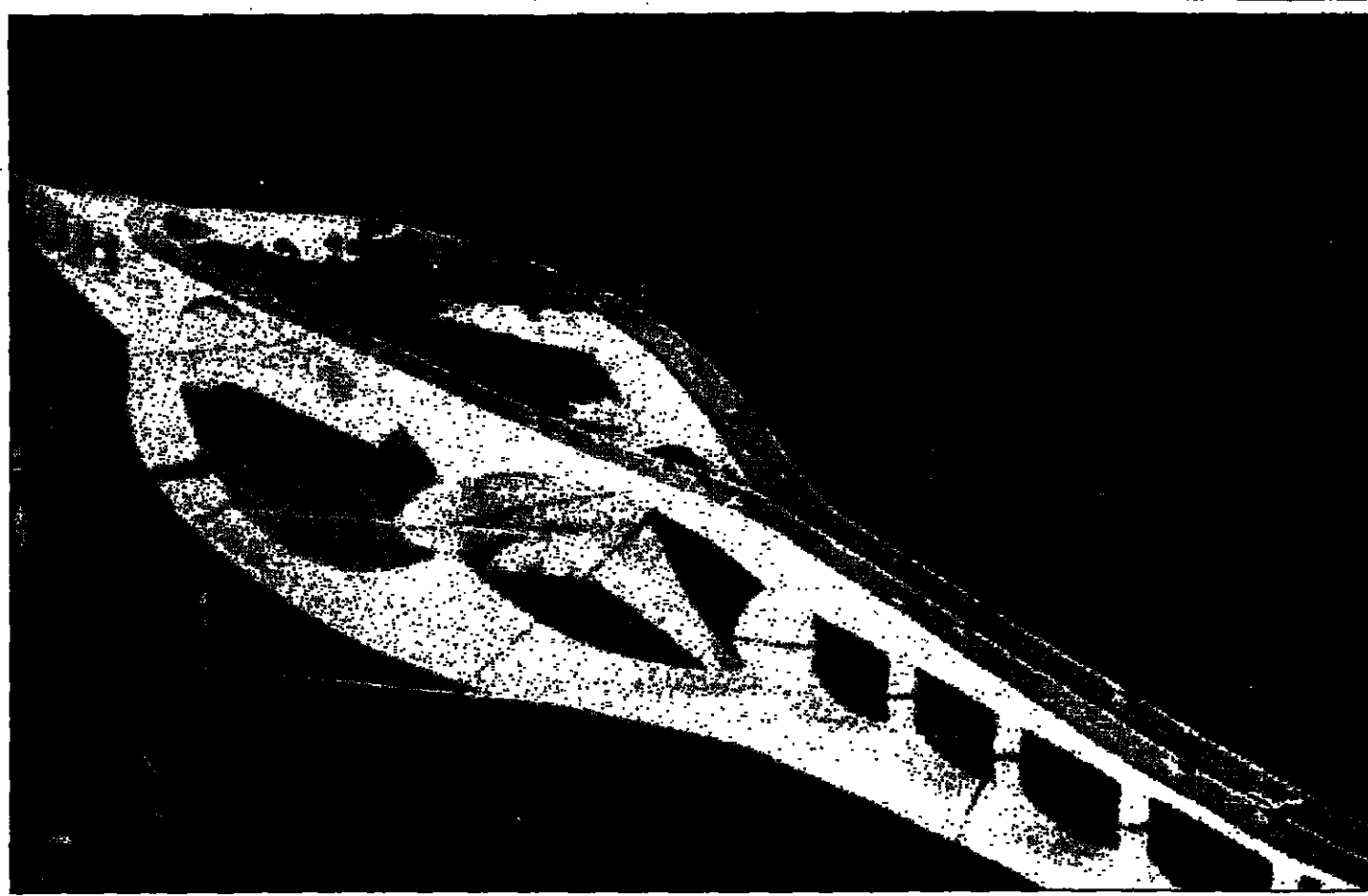
NEW YORK: A Queens doctor who pleaded guilty to stealing \$3.6 million in state Medicaid funds by "draining the lifeblood" of desperately poor people was sentenced on Thursday to five to 10 years in prison.

Dr Serdar Singh Pandey was the last defendant to be sentenced for buying massive quantities of human blood from drug addicts and others and then billing Medicaid for unnecessary and unneeded lab tests.

Edward Karlanovsky, the state special prosecutor for nursing homes, health and social services, called Pandey's crime, "The most nefarious fraud ever perpetrated (in) this country's health care system. (UPI)

NEW YORK: Grete Waitz of Norway, nine-time winner of the New York City Marathon, had her purse snatched on Wednesday on a busy midtown Manhattan street, police said.

The marathon winner and her husband, Jack Waitz, were in the theatre district when Mrs Waitz was accosted and her bag was snatched, said police Sergeant Victor Paoli. (AP)



Proposed bridge

An architectural drawing shows the proposed design for a bridge which may be built across the San Francisco Bay. The proposed bridge, which is to be privately funded, is based on a 1949 design by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ed 'the Eagle' wants to fly high

MOSCOW, June 30, (UPI): Britain and the Soviet Union signed an agreement yesterday to send the first British astronaut into space on a Soviet rocket in 1991, possibly on the 30th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's pioneering manned space flight.

The Soviet Glavkosmos Space Agency and Antekura Ltd, a British company formed especially for the joint mission, signed the agreement in Moscow for an eight-day flight, code-named June, to the Mir Space Station.

"The Anglo-Soviet flight is due to take place between March and July 1991," the joint announcement said. "One possible launch date is April 12, 1991, the 30th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first-ever manned space flight."

The British will pay the Soviets \$24.9 million for the flight, about \$9 million more than the Japanese are paying to send the first Japanese astronaut into space on a mission that may also take place in 1991.

Both sides stressed that the joint mission, which took two years to negotiate, will be a wholly commercial venture funded by companies paying for its research capabilities.

"In fact, it's the first-ever commercially supported manned space mission of its kind anywhere," the joint announcement said.

Selection of two British astronauts, one of whom will be an alternate for the flight, must be completed by November when they have to come to Moscow to begin 18 months of training at the Gagarin Space Centre outside the Soviet capital.

British Air Vice Marshal Peter Howard said he expects his government will choose the two astronauts from about 300 serious applicants. Any Briton — man or woman, 21 to 40 years old — can apply and need not be a member of the armed forces, Howard said.

In London, Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, the British ski jumper who found fame at the Calgary Winter Olympic Games by coming last, put himself forward to be the first Briton in space.

"I want to put up for the job, no qualms whatsoever," he said on a special phone line to take the names of volunteers. "I'm not scared of heights. I can handle it."

"The Anglo-Soviet flight is another step by the Soviets to try to make money from their space expertise at a time when lawmakers in the new parliament have talked about cutting money from the space programme and demanded that it pays for itself through increased efficiency."

Although astronauts from 12 mainly socialist nations have flown with Russian cosmonauts since 1978, the Soviets have not made a keystone from the flights, which have been used to reward friendly countries.

Education Secretary Kenneth Baker said, in a statement, "Prince Charles echoes the concern of many parents. That is why we are introducing a national curriculum with English as the core subject."

But Walter Ivers, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said there was "no evidence" for the criticisms levelled by the prince.

physical regime of Gordonstoun, a Scottish private school, and at Cambridge University.

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But Walter Ivers, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said there was "no evidence" for the criticisms levelled by the prince.

They see the light

Near-death experiences studied

FLOROE, Norway, June 30, (AP): Goran Grip says he saw life after death at age 5.

He was lying on an operating table in 1948, when something went wrong with the anaesthesia and he nearly died. He remembers leaving his body and ascending "a road of light."

At its end, he met what he calls "A being of light. It was a living being, radiating love." Together, he said, they reviewed in an instant the episodes of his short life: his joys, his jealousies and the minor tortures he inflicted on his baby brother.

Grip had a near-death experience. Now he is an anaesthetist in Uppsala, Sweden, and a student of what is known in scientific shorthand as NDEs.

Did Grip have a preview of heaven, or was it only a trick of his mind? Are millions of others hallucinating when they experience similar voyages to the beyond? Or does the weight of so many coinciding accounts point to immortality?

"I don't believe science can prove life after death," said Raymond Moody, the psychology professor who invented the term near-death experience in a 1975 book, "Life after Life."

"But there are questions which can be addressed by scientists," Moody told an international conference that ended Monday in the coastal city of Floroe. He urged a greater collection of data about the people who report NDEs.

"Despite our careful disclaimers," said researcher Kenneth Ring of the University of Connecticut, "Everyone — critics included — understands that the reason we are fascinated with NDEs is the unmistakable implication that there really is life after death and that, furthermore, it will be wonderful."

In a 1982 Gallup Poll, eight million American adults reported having a near-death experience. Their numbers are growing as medical advances rescue more patients from the brink of death. About 40 per cent of those revived from clinical death or near-death say they remember such an experience.

"The NDE is an objective reality. We agree on this. What we don't agree on is how to interpret it," said Rune Amundson, a Norwegian psychologist. He organised the conference attended by 150 experts from Scandinavia, the United States and England.

Millions tell basically the same story: The mind, soul or self drifts upward, sometimes pausing to look from ceiling-level at doctors' efforts to resuscitate the body. It travels through a dark tunnel toward a pinpoint of brightness and emerges to be engulfed in light and warm feelings of well-being.

Often it meets dead relatives and sees life in a panoramic flash. It may be offered the choice to return or simply told that the time has not yet come.

Many scientists and researchers say the scenario is the fantasy of an oxygen-starved brain or the result of a temporal lobe seizure in the brain.

Psychologist Susan Blackmore, of Britain's University of Bristol, said the near-death experience is a delusion of "neurons firing at random," which can occur if certain inhibitors in the brain cease functioning.

The dying brain, struggling with the shrinking input of information it receives, tries to make order of chaos and constructs "a new model of reality," she said.

But London neuropsychiatrist Peter Fenwick argued that if that were true, the thoughts and memories of the dying person would be confused and fragmented instead of clear and coherent.

Other researchers cite stories told by dying people which are later corroborated.

People regaining consciousness after nearly dying have been known to report accurately on events happening in the operating theatre while they were unconscious, and even elsewhere in the hospital.

They describe things — the Magenta butterflies on the top of the surgeon's cap, as in one example — which could only be seen from above.

Moody, who collected several such stories among the 2,000 people he interviewed, cautioned that the accounts lack scientific validity.

"We have to be careful. So far, these are only isolated anecdotes," he said.

Hard-headed scientists grope to explain the unbelievable. Jan Pilotti, a Swedish physicist, built an argument based on Einstein's Theory of Relativity that time and space lose their meaning beyond the speed of light. The existence of other dimensions could thus be mathematically postulated, his theory goes.

Researchers say that with hardly an exception, those who make the journey return changed.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss ring

ZURICH, June 30, (Reuters): Police have uncovered an international smuggling and money-laundering operation that channelled more than a million dollars a week through Swiss banks, a public prosecutor said yesterday.

The probe by Swiss, French and Spanish authorities found a group of companies in Basle masterminded a scheme to smuggle cigarettes and cocaine into Spain, said Joerg Schild, who headed the investigation for the Basle Prosecutor's Office.

3 jailed for life

LYON, France, June 30, (Reuters): Three members of the French guerrilla group Action Directe were jailed for life yesterday and others received long sentences for a series of murders, bombings and robberies. The verdicts, handed down by a court in Lyon after seven hours of deliberation by the jury, closed one of the most violent chapters in recent French history.

Swedes arrested

KRUSAA, Denmark, June 30, (Reuters): Two Swedes were being held in custody on charges of trying to smuggle three Middle Eastern refugees across the Danish-West German border, Danish frontier police said yesterday.

The Swedes were arrested after Danish police found an Iranian, an Iraqi and a Palestinian in the luggage compartments of their cars on two separate occasions this month.

Cossiga's support

ROME, June 30, (Reuters): President Francesco Cossiga has vowed that Italy will find those to blame for the crash of an airliner believed to have been brought down by a missile.

Cossiga received relatives of the 81 victims and expressed his sympathy and support for their struggle to establish the truth in a meeting yesterday marking the ninth anniversary of the crash on June 27, 1980.

EEC membership

BRUSSELS, June 30, (UPI): The Austrian parliament voted yesterday to seek membership in the 12-member European Economic Community, and diplomatic sources said the formal application would likely be filed in Brussels by mid-July.

Listeria poisoning

LONDON, June 30, (KUNA): Britain's health department was slammed by MPs here yesterday for a two-year delay in warning pregnant women about the dangers of listeria poisoning.

A total of 115 pregnant women fell victim to the food poisoning, and 26 lost their babies before warnings over eating certain soft cheeses, poultry and cook-chill meals — likely to be contaminated by listeria bacteria — were issued in February.

British beaches

LONDON, June 30, (KUNA): Amateur metal detectors are being called in to help search beaches in Britain for discarded syringes, it was reported yesterday.

A total of nine people have received treatment since the end of May after pricking themselves on needles which may have been dumped by drug users after beach parties in south Devon, south-west England.

Weapons cache

CATANIA, Sicily, June 30, (Reuters): Police said yesterday they had discovered one of the largest caches of weapons and ammunition ever hidden by the Sicilian Mafia.

The cache, which one investigator called a "strategic arsenal", was found in a secret room in part of a building under construction in Catania on Sicily's eastern coast.

Arrest warrant

FRANKFURT, June 30, (AP): Police have issued an international arrest warrant for a convicted Nazi murderer who fled to avoid arrest, a state prosecutor said yesterday.

Wuppertal prosecutor Friedhelm Gabriel did not rule out the possibility that an underground group may have helped former Nazi death camp guard Gottfried Weiss escape.

Minister fired

MEXICO CITY, June 30, (UPI): President Fidel Castro fired Interior Minister Gen. Jose Abades because he failed to stop officials linked to narcotics trafficking and replaced him with a top general who will extend a drug probe the Cuban news agency said yesterday.

The Prensa Latina news agency, monitored in Mexico City, quoted an article in the Communist Party newspaper Granma as saying that Abades was replaced by Gen. Eduardo Colome Ibarra, the third highest ranking military official after President Fidel Castro and his brother, Defence Minister Raul Castro.

Air show crash

MULHOUSE, France, June 30, (AP): The co-pilot of an Airbus airliner which crashed at an air show last year has been charged with involuntary homicide, bringing to four the number of people charged in the case.

Marie-Catherine Marchionni, an investigating magistrate, charged co-pilot Pierre Mazieres, 46, yesterday.

British immigrants

LONDON, June 30, (KUNA): Record numbers of immigrants were deported or removed from Britain last year for entering illegally or violating their conditions of stay, it was reported here today.

British Home Office statistics reflected a new curb on immigrants who breach the rules and the increased use of "supervised departure", a system whereby immigrants agree to go and organise their own flights at British public expense.

Briton jailed

HARARE, June 30, (Reuters): A former British soldier who tried to rescue a friend from prison in Zimbabwe was jailed for life today for terrorism and sabotage.

Greek politicians woo communists

ATHENS, June 30, (UPI): Greece's two major political parties stepped up efforts to woo communist leader Harilaos Florakis today, as his three-day mandate to form a coalition government drew to a close.

Constantine Mitsotakis, whose conservative New Democracy Party won 145 seats in the 300-member Parliament in the June 18 general elections, made a compromise bid to woo the communist leader.

Mitsotakis, who earlier rejected Florakis' proposal for an all-party government headed by Democratic Renewal Party leader Kostas

Stefanopoulos, met the communist leader today and made a new proposal.

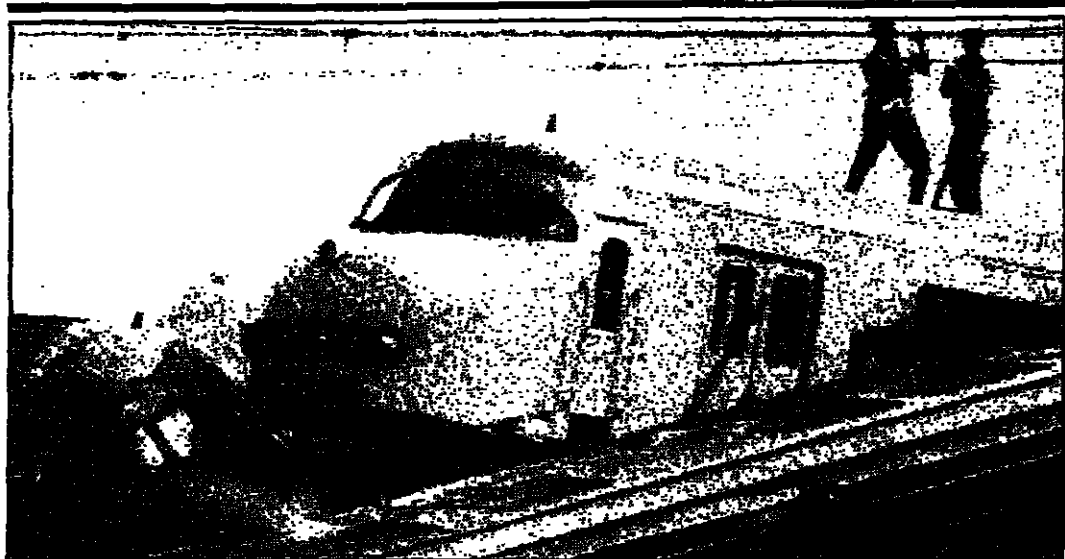
Mitsotakis put forward less known New Democracy Deputy Tzannis Tzanetakis as prime minister in a coalition of Florakis' Leftist Alliance for Progress and New Democracy.

Greece was plunged last week into a political crisis it has not experienced before because New Democracy fell six seats short of an overall majority in Parliament.

The communist-led Leftist Alliance won 28 seats, putting it in a position to form a coalition with either New Democracy or the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK, which won 125 seats.

Caretaker Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, the PASOK leader recovering in the hospital from pneumonia and kidney complications, was also reported ready to compromise.

After earlier insisting on himself as prime minister in a coalition of PASOK and the Leftist Alliance, Papandreu announced today that he is withdrawing his candidacy for premiership.



Trains derail

Two Dutch railway workers disengage an overhead electrical line after a collision Wednesday between a passenger train and a freight train near Alphen in the Netherlands. Five people were injured. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stop global warming or risk disaster: UN

Catastrophe predicted

UNITED NATIONS, June 30, (AP): Entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the end of the century, according to a top UN environmental official.

Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of "eco-refugees" threatening political chaos, said Noel Brown, director of the New York office of the UN Environment Programme called UNEP.

Governments have a "10-year window" of opportunity to solve the "greenhouse effect" before it passes beyond human control, he told the Associated Press.

"Nature will be far more Hobbesian — 'poor, nasty, and brutish' — in the next century if politicians fail to meet the challenge, Brown said.

As the warming melts polar icecaps, ocean levels will rise by up to one metre (three feet), enough to inundate coastal regions of the Maldives, Seychelles, and other low-lying island nations, said Brown.

One-sixth of Bangladesh could be flooded, displacing a fourth of its 90 million people. A fifth of Egypt's arable land in the Nile Delta would be flooded, cutting off its food supply, according to a joint UNEP and US Environmental Protection Agency study.

"Ecological refugees will become a major concern, and what's worse is you may find that the people can move to drier ground, but the soils and the natural resources may not support life. Africa doesn't have to worry about land, but would you want to live in the Sahara?" he asked.

UNEP estimates it would cost the United States at least \$100 billion to protect its East Coast alone.

Shifting climate patterns would bring back "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s to Canadian and US wheatlands, while the Soviet Union could reap bumper crops if it adapts its agriculture in time, according to a study by UNEP and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

Man's use of fossil fuels and the burning of the rain forests is releasing excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The atmosphere is retaining more heat than it radiates, much like a greenhouse, according to the theory.

The most conservative scientific estimates state that the earth's temperature will rise 1 to 4 degrees Centigrade (1 to 7 degrees Fahrenheit) in the next 30 years, according to Brown.

The difference in temperature may seem slight, he said, but the planet is only 5 degrees Centigrade (9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer today than it was during the 8,000-year ice age that ended 10,000 years ago.

"During the last 100 years, global temperatures have increased about 0.7 degrees Centigrade. We fear that if present trends continue, we might be changing it by about 1 degree per decade in an open-ended process.

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DC's elite linked to 'call boy' sex ring

WASHINGTON, June 30, (Agencies): White House officials in three administrations have been caught up in a probe of a male prostitution ring that provided services to some of Washington's power elite, government sources said yesterday.

Aides for Presidents George Bush, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter were linked to a band of high-priced male prostitutes who served the desires of well-connected men, the sources said.

The names of clients were uncovered by federal agents and local Washington police during a raid in February on a two-storey city home that served as a clearing house for the ring, the sources said.

"This didn't catch just Republicans, it got Democrats too," one source said.

The Washington Times, in a major investigative article, said those targeted by local and federal police authorities include Charles Dwyer, presidential personnel director in the Reagan administration and Paul Balach, current White House liaison to Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

One official, whose name was not disclosed, was so "well-connected" that he arranged a 1,000 am tour of the White House last summer with six of his "friends," the paper asserted.

Both Dwyer and Balach admitted they used "professional services," the front name of the prostitution service.

Also cited in the Times article was the former clerk of the US House of Representatives, who was working as the dispatcher of the homosexual service.

Among the names the Times obtained were those of employees of major news organisations here — including one of its senior editors. The Times named this person.

The man had claimed before leaving that his association was limited to "investigating" the service for an upcoming article.

But supervisors had no knowledge of such an article in preparation at that time, the Times said.

The total number of customers is not yet known, although the Times said it had obtained copies of "hundreds" of credit card receipts. Some clients reportedly used the "call boys" many times.

Some of the congressional, military, administration or other high-ranking clients were blackmailed by the male prostitutes, who exploited the men's fear of exposure, the paper related.

Citing documents in its possession, the Times said the ring included not only officials, but military officers, congressional aides and US and foreign businessmen "with close social ties to Washington's political elite."

White House officials withheld public comment about the detailed revelations, hammered across the front page of the newspaper which has long supported the conservative Reagan and Bush administrations.

Bush promised yesterday that he will work with Congress toward enacting a pay raise for members and top federal officials, but he stopped short of offering a specific proposal.

In a speech on campaign finance proposals to "truly clean up the system," Bush also proposed new restrictions on Political Action Committees and curtailing some advantages enjoyed by incumbent members of Congress.



Butler, slain



A deported ethnic Turkish family wait for transportation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talks on ethnic Turks Turkey tries every avenue

ANKARA, June 30, (Agencies): Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz will visit Syria next week for talks on the plight of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, a ministry source said today.

"Syria has a special relationship with Warsaw Pact countries and it has promised to communicate our views to Bulgaria. The issue will be discussed extensively," the source said.

Yilmaz, on a three-day visit from Monday, will also discuss bilateral ties which officials say have improved since Prime Minister Turgut Ozal went to Damascus in mid-1987.

Turkey is pursuing every avenue, including Soviet efforts, to help ease the plight of mainly Muslim ethnic Turks in Bulgaria and organise the flow of refugees into Turkey.

Nearly 90,000 ethnic Turks, fleeing a forced assimilation campaign in Bulgaria, have sought sanctuary in Turkey since May.

Bulgaria says they are Bulgarians who were forced to take Muslim names during Ottoman-Turkish rule.

Yilmaz is also likely to discuss separatist Kurdish rebel attacks in southeastern Turkey, often near the Syrian border, that have claimed more than 1,500 lives since mid-1984.

Turkey believes some guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) are based in Syria, as well as in Iraq and Iran.

Bulgaria has accused Turkey of spreading rumours that it is

refusing medical aid to the ethnic Turks and injecting them with drugs to induce sterility and AIDS.

Bulgaria's official BTA news agency monitored in Vienna today, quoted an official protest from Health Minister Mincho Peichev to the Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO), over charges made by his Turkish counterpart Halil Sivgin.

Smiles mingle with tears on the faces of ethnic Turkish refugees as they stream across the border from Bulgaria, overjoyed to be in Turkey but fearful for the future and for the relatives they left behind.

First stop for the most destitute of up to four thousand people arriving every day is a refugee camp of white circular tents at Edirne railway station.

"I've arrived, I've arrived," a grandfather sobbed into a telephone. Behind him stretched a line of other refugees waiting to contact relatives among Turkey's large Bulgarian Turkish community.

A young man desperately questioned officials. "My three-month-old girl and my wife are still there (in Bulgaria)," he said. "Everyday I come here to see if one of the trains will bring them to me."

Bulgaria may bring in thousands of Vietnamese and Cuban workers to fill labour shortages created by the mass exodus of ethnic Turks, a senior Bulgarian trade union official said yesterday.

Crossing Atlantic

On the crest of waves

NEW YORK, June 30, (AP): A team of French business students prepared today to start windsurfing from New York City to La Rochelle, France — a feat they hope will take them one month to achieve.

"Why?" windsurfer Beatrice Noel asked rhetorically. "Because it's a great adventure. This is something you can do when you're 22, and maybe later, you don't have the time."

The Transatlantic windsurfing journey is being attempted by nine second-year students at the Institut Supérieur du Commerce in Paris. Four of them will take turns sailing a windsurfbord while five others crew on a catamaran as their support vessel.

"This teaches you responsibility on how to put together a package, to get sponsors, to work together, the struggle of life," said Philippe Pauliac, 22.

Court frees German women jailed for killing rapist

NICOSIA, June 30, (Reuters): A Turkish-Cypriot appeal court today freed two West German women tourists whose jail sentences for killing a rapist in self-defence caused a storm of protest.

"You are free to go," judge Salih Dayioglu told Uthe Loh, 48, and her 21-year-old daughter Melani after quashing their convictions for the manslaughter of a Turkish Cypriot who attacked them in a tent in March.

The women sobbed with joy and embraced as the judge overturned Uthe Loh's four-year jail term and

Melani's three-year term imposed by a lower court last month.

The case received wide press coverage and criticism in West Germany.

Court sources said Uthe Loh would still serve the remainder of a three-month sentence for possessing 55 grammes (two ounces) of cannabis.

Blacks reject white plans

LUSAKA, June 30, (Agencies): The African National Congress (ANC) today denounced new plans by South Africa's ruling whites to ease apartheid and said it would go on waging guerrilla attacks.

The recent proposals from (ruling National Party leader F.W.) de Klerk offer no meaningful alternative. They are a repeat of the same old thing," ANC president Oliver Tambo said.

He was addressing a meeting of his exiled organisation with a group of 115 visiting white South Africans, including former parliamentarian Helen Suzman and other liberals.

The group arrived in the Zambian capital yesterday for talks with the ANC on how to find a peaceful end to apartheid.

Tambo said the ANC, the most important guerrilla group fighting white minority rule, would continue its armed struggle.

"It is not always possible to attain peace through peaceful means. The only way to attack the racial policy is to wage a war and cause a loss of life," he said.

The ANC urged the National Party to pay more attention to the political arena outside South Africa's Parliament, where whites, Indians and mixed-race coloureds have separate chambers.

The black majority remains excluded. The ANC renewed its call for one person, one vote.

De Klerk, almost certain to become president as the National Party's designated successor to P.W. Botha, yesterday promised blacks political rights while also promising white voters there will be no majority rule.

De Klerk declared "a new chapter" in South African history with that plan that grants blacks full political rights.

Weeping with emotion when 1,500 delegates gave him a standing ovation as he opened the governing party's national congress in Johannesburg, De Klerk said the Nationalists, responsible for 41 years of apartheid law, could lead South Africa back into the international community by ending many of its racist practices.

De Klerk avoided specifics, saying the form of a future government and constitution would have to be negotiated. An absence of objections to the platform amounted to its acceptance by the congress.

But Western diplomats say the plans do not go far enough.

Court rules out claim

STOCKHOLM, June 30, (AP): A district court refused yesterday to hear testimony claiming an international conspiracy was behind the 1986 slaying of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The court ruled that allegations of a plot by Kurdish separatists were irrelevant to the trial of the accused gunman, Christer Pettersson, who has denied the shooting.

Palme, the dominant figure in Swedish politics for more than a decade, was gunned down while walking home from a late movie with his wife Lisbeth.

The ruling came on the final day of prosecution witnesses and as the defence began building its own version of events to discredit the prosecutor's case. The prosecution was relying heavily on the Mrs Palme's identification of Pettersson.

Anna Hage, a nurse who passed by shortly after Palme was shot, said Lisbeth was "confused" and in a state of shock. She said Lisbeth "looked vacant" but said the shock would be natural under the circumstances. Lisbeth has said she positively remembered Pettersson and was clear-headed at the time.

UN to officially record Amir's debt write-off proposal

Spirit of shared responsibility

UNITED NATIONS, June 30. (KUNA) The Kuwaiti proposal for Third World debt write-off will enter UN official records next week as part of the "Caracas Declaration" adopted last Friday by the special ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in the Venezuelan capital.

The group's UN bureau said Wednesday that Malaysia, as chairman of the Group of 77, had requested the secretary-general to circulate the declaration as an official UN document.

The plan of action, proposed by the Amir of Kuwait during last year's general debate, aims at narrowing the gap between rich and poor countries.

The calls on creditor nations to consider writing off interest on their loans to debtor countries and possibly forego some payment of principal to the poorest nations.

The Amir's proposal was incorporated in the Caracas Declaration of foreign ministers of the Group of 77 on the

occasion of the group's 25th anniversary.

Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Kuwait's Permanent Nations Representative, headed his delegation in Caracas.

Responsibility

In the document, the special ministerial meeting expressed its appreciation to "the important initiative of HH the Amir of Kuwait" during last year's general debate.

As for the debt crisis in gen-

eral, the group said it needs to be resolved in the spirit of shared responsibility and on the basis of an integrated and comprehensive strategy.

The Group of 77 calls for a substantial and timely reduction of the stock and service of external debt of developing countries as well as a significant flow of new financial resources commensurate with their economic needs," the declaration said.

The group noted that for many low income countries the resum-

ption of development requires a substantial cancellation of their debt burden.

Meanwhile, US banking regulators threatened to raise reserve requirements for major US banks with Third World loans unless there is progress soon on Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's own plan for reducing debt.

The plan calls for commercial banks to forgive large amounts of their loans to developing

countries, but it has run into stiff opposition from the banks in an early test over loans to Mexico.

US commercial banks hold \$70.7 billion in troubled Third World loans but have set aside reserves of only \$23 billion to cover them.

Brady's plan calls for reducing the total \$340 billion in such loans by about 20 per cent, while Mexico is seeking a 55 per cent reduction in the nearly \$70 billion in owes private creditors.

More allowances for Communications staff

THE Ministry of Communications is studying the feasibility of offering new allowances to its employees, Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayout at the ministry said and added that the Civil Service Council has authorised the minister of communications to sign private contracts with Kuwaiti engineers and other employees needed by providing them with enhanced privileges.

However, the official denied that the ministry is in need of a large number of engineers, technicians and employees to run the new telecommunications tower that is being built.

The official also denied that the ministry had exempted any subscriber from paying KD30 which is the amount charged for a change in the telephone number. He also denied that the ministry is considering levying charges for internal calls or to place limitations on the number of such calls.

Ayoub said that an experiment in fast services at Salmiya New Central indicated that some new subscribers obtained telephone services within less than 24 hours while 72 hours was the longest period ascertained to obtain these services at that central provided subscribers produced all required documents.

He pointed out that the ministry is following up the complaints of subscribers receiving "nuisance" telephone calls, and added that the ministry is convinced that such calls increase in summer which is attributed to teenagers who are on vacation. The ministry monitors these calls and disconnects the telephone service of the culprit after legal proceedings have been instituted.

The ministry is going to begin a new telephone service at Kuwait City and Shurwaikh. This service will programme telephones of subscribers not to receive unwanted telephone calls. The ministry is also studying other services like the hot line, do not disturb, waken up alarm and meeting services.



Right to left are: ICS Gulf Area General Manager Jamal Idris, Office Manager Hussein Bakry, Exec. Secretary Ramulo Bugay.

Filipino expats form majority of home-study students

AMBITIOUS Filipino expatriates with a little free time and extra money are going in for the personalized home-study programme being offered by the International Correspondence School (ICS), whose Gulf area office is situated in Riyadh.

Computer programming still remains at the top of the list of programmes taught by ICS, says Jamal Idris, the enterprising Gulf Area General Manager.

The course was initially introduced in 1983, and is among the top 10 courses, followed by Basic Electronics, TV/VCR Repairs, US High School Diploma, Business Management, Hotel & Restaurant Management, Electronics Technology, Auto Mechanic, Mechanical Engineering Technology, and Interior Decorating.

"ICS prepares programmes according to the market requirements", says Idris, adding that it has no competition in the Kingdom in this field. "ICS offers a variety of degree and diploma programmes", he says.

Filipinos still form the majority of the expatriate students taking advantage of the courses, says Idris. They are followed by expatriates from the sub-continent, and even Americans.

The reason for the Filipino majority is because their system of education is similar to that in the US. And also because most of

the students are already familiar with the name and programmes of ICS in their home country, says the manager.

Asked about the completion rate of the courses as some expatriates may have to leave the kingdom unexpectedly, Idris says that's no problem, as students can simply change their mailing address and continue to study in their home country without incurring any additional charges.

Most courses take between nine months to 2 years, depending whether it is a diploma or degree programme. ICS today have students over 360,000 world-wide, with over 150,000 joining in every year. The school offers over 50 different programmes, including off-beat ones like wild-life conservation.

ICS offers incentives like reduced fees or payment in instalments. For the Business degree programme consisting of our semesters it charges \$2756 which include tuition payment, cost of study materials and equipments. This compared to \$9000 tuition alone in any college in the US, is a bargain.

"There is a lot of potential here," says Idris, but notes that many students enroll even without finding out the various benefits being offered. "We get over ten letters every day inquiring for additional information about the programmes offered," he says.

KFAED loans KD10 m to Tunisia

TUNIS, June 30. (Reuters) The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has lent a Tunisian associate, the Societe Industrielle d'Acide Phosphorique et d'Engrais (SIAPE), KD10 million (\$3.4 million) to help restructure the company.

A spokesman for Tunisia's Ministry of Planning and Finance told Reuters on Thursday the loan was at four per cent interest to be repaid over 20 years with a five-year period of grace.

The Kuwaiti fund holds an equity stake in SIAPE, one of seven companies in the troubled Groupe Chimique conglomerate.

The Tunisian government, the main shareholder in the group, had originally wanted Kuwait to add to SIAPE's capital but the fund agreed to help only through lending.

The spokesman said the loan would contribute to a renovation and improvement plan costing around 134.8 million Tunisian dinars (\$138 million).

SIAPE's factories turn Tunisian phosphates into phosphoric acid fertilisers, mainly for export.

Status of bachelors

A TEAM of specialists is engaged in drawing up a set of legal guidelines which would determine the status of bachelors who live in model housing areas designated exclusively for Kuwaiti families.

A survey is being conducted to determine the number of bachelors who live in model housing areas, the public relations director at Kuwait Municipality said.

He added that some owners of government houses rent their houses to bachelors. Others build annexes to their houses and rent them out to bachelors. The municipality will take legal action against owners who do not evacuate bachelors from these houses, the official said.

He pointed out that Bneid Al Gar area is specially intended as investment buildings and expatriate families and bachelors can live in these areas.

Sacrificial meat for Palestine

KUWAIT, June 30. (KUNA) Head of the Palestine Charity Committee Dr Amin Al Agha Wednesday said that his committee was endeavouring to collect the cost of slaughtering at least 5,000 rams this year, to be sacrificed in Palestine, on the occasion of Eid Al Adha and distributed to the poor.

Agha noted that the committee, an affiliate of the International Islamic Charity Organisation, had opened its projects in Palestine following its declaration in June 1988 with the slaughtering of 1,000 rams in the same year.

He noted that the project targets bolstering steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands and lessening the Israeli enemy's economic siege of refugee camps, villages and cities there in a desperate bid to end the raging 18-month old uprising.

He underlined that a price of a single ram slaughtered and distributed in occupied Palestine ranges between KD40 to 50.



Bathing in style... a satisfied customer in foam.

Public bathing

It exists in Kuwait

IN KUWAIT, there are a number of public baths this may be unknown to a large section of residents, but it is well known to many bachelors, especially Kuwaitis.

A local daily visited one of these baths which was first opened in 1957, and since that time is still receiving patrons who prefer the eastern mode of toilet facilities.

Most Arab users are Kuwaitis, but many Syrians, Iraqis and Lebanese also go there. It includes a shop for selling underwear, bathing requirements and refreshments, in addition to a barber shop. There are 13 workers at the bath who say they receive higher number of customers during parties and wedding seasons.

Crowds

Mohammed Jobek, the manager at the bath said that the shop is mostly crowded during the weekend when the number of customers during these days ranges between 150-200. On normal days the bath receives 50 to 80 customers on an average. He pointed out that the shop is open from 7.00 am until 7.00 pm daily.

Jobek said that he has been working at the Middle East bath for as long as 31 years where he undertakes all kinds of mechanical and technical problems. He added that another bath was located near the Haroon Souq but was closed some time ago.

He stressed that the bath is safe and has never encountered any problems. "We care about the safety of our patrons, if a customer is late while taking a steam bath, we usually knock on the door to make sure he is OK, especially if the customer is fat," he said.

Jobek also pointed out that the steam room is very hot and body temperatures could be affected from individual to individual. The bath shop requests customers to leave their valuables

like gold and money in the shop's deposit box before entering the bath.

The bath has 9 masseurs. Jobek said that most of the patrons prefer to take a massage and that a small number ask for a steam bath.

Khayam Murad, the barber at the bath has been working there for more than 9 years. He said that most patrons like to shave their beards or have a hair cut before entering the bath.

He pointed out that some times he faces problems when some customers try to jump their turn over other customers.

He added that he takes a bath 3 times a week and gives himself up to the massage once every 15 days. He charges KD1,500 for a hair cut and 750 for a shave.

Hedar Abbas said that he has been working at the bath for 3 years. He sells underwear and bath requirements. He pointed out that it is a good opportunity for him to use the bath. He bathes twice a week.

On the other hand, Jassem Al Zwa'in, who is a customer said that he has been coming to the

bath for nearly a year, especially before going to weddings or parties. He pointed out that bathing is a good way to spend leisure time. He likes massages which he considers relaxing.

Zwa'in said that he doesn't like to take steam baths because it requires many sessions for the body to get adapted to it. He prefers to go to other speciality centres for steam baths.

Relaxing

Abdul Mueen Al Trajji said that he has been going to this particular bath for 12 years. He visits once every month and gets a massage. He believes that it is the best public bath in the Gulf area.

He pointed out that there were more customers during the 1960's than nowadays. He added that people used to come to the bath to have a bath and a massage before getting married.

Wehham Bader considers massage very relaxing for the body. He pointed out that it re-activates the blood circulation and gives the body renewed vigour. He said that prices at the bath are adequate and that workers are honest.



Getting a rub down... there are nine masseurs at the bath.

KPTC profits up for 1988

THE Kuwait Public Transportation Company (KPTC) announced that the company's net profits amounted to KD3,289,698 last year (1988) compared to KD1,776,494 in 1987 and KD635,302 in 1986.

According to a report, the

company continues its policy to provide public transportation utility with high standard buses according to international standards besides extending its routes to cover all places in the country although some routes are not profitable. The report added that more than 119 million passengers used buses of KPTC last year. The company added two new bus-routes during 1988 to reach a total number of 56 routes.

The report pointed out that the company has contracted to buy 61 new middle size buses to replace the old buses. The company's activities also extended to transport passengers to some Arab countries. KPTC signed an agreement to operate a land bus-route linking Kuwait with Jordan. It added that the company provided the local pilgrimage caravans with 99 air-conditioned buses. It also sold 107 surplus and second hand buses to individuals and local companies last year including 60 buses that were sent to Lebanon as support from Kuwait.

All employees, however, must provide an air ticket to a maid whose visa has been cancelled, i.e. final cancellation of visa. The immigration authority require an air ticket to provide an exit permit for the maid leaving Kuwait for good. If the maid tells them that she can't afford to pay her fare, the immigration officials call the employer and ask him to pay.

It would be advisable to buy the air ticket. Our lawyer, consulted by us, also said an employer was "obliged to buy the air ticket" if a maid's visa is being cancelled.

In previous years, a person could go to the nearest port and re-enter Kuwait on a new visa. However, in recent years, the law says that such people must "return to their country of origin" and return.

There is no legal binding, perhaps, only a humanitarian obligation, which most employers don't live up to, perhaps, another common practice.

I'M A housemaid. I would like to find out what I have to do to come back and work in Kuwait with another employer after my two months vacation in my country. Please help me and tell me what to do.

ARE you cancelling your present visa to go on vacation? Has your contract ended with the present employer? If the answer to both questions is yes, then we suggest you look for another employer who'll get you a new visa before going on the two month vacation. However, if you are only going on vacation with a promise to return and work for your present employer, then you are obliged to rejoin duty with that family.

It's rather difficult to guide you on how to find another job. Perhaps, you could talk to your friends and ask them if anyone is looking for a housemaid. To re-enter Kuwait, you must have a visa, which can only be issued by your sponsor — the person employing you. However, it is not advisable to pay for a visa as this is illegal and a punishable offence.

If you came to Kuwait through an agent, you could contact him again to find you new employment.

If you have a query, need clarification of rules pertaining to immigration, communications or any other matter, or need advice, drop in a line to: Action Line, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to 4847495.

Action Line

I'VE been working as a domestic helper. Although I came back to Kuwait after eight months in my country, I got a job with the same family I worked for before. My problem is not with my employer but her brother who wants to do anything he wants to do with me. I don't want to tell my employer because because, maybe, they won't believe me.

I have a boyfriend, and he is willing to marry me. But I am afraid of my employer. I fear they won't allow me to leave the house if they know of this friendship. My friend is a Kuwaiti man, who wants to marry me. If I marry him without the knowledge of my employer, what will they do when they know about it?

Although I am not married to him yet, can I go and stay with him? I can't stay with my employer any longer. If I tell my Madam, she won't allow me to marry, especially because he is a Kuwaiti. Is it alright to tell her about marriage? He has promised to change my visa after our marriage. I think my Madam will understand my situation but the problem is with her husband and her brother. Please advise.

Ms. Aquarius.

KHALED TAHER, our attorney, said your's is not a legal problem. Actually, it is a family problem. Taher said the intention of your employer's brother to "do anything to you" is a kind of crime. He also said if you stayed with your friend, you would be breaking the law, firstly, by "running away" from your employer's house and secondly by living with a man without marriage.

We advise you to inform your Madam, in a friendly way, about her brother's unwelcome advances. If she is an understanding person, she'll be able to help you.

Marriage is a personal matter, something that should be decided by you and your partner. If that person is willing to marry you, and is serious about the proposal, he won't suggest you go and "stay with" him. It is against the law to live with a man before marriage. If the authorities find out, you could be jailed or deported, or both.

An alternative would be to return to your country and come back on a dependant visa, provided by your friend and after marriage.

I'VE been working in Kuwait for more than eight years on visa No. 18. I married four years ago; my wife's visa is No. 20. We are both under one sponsor. We have a one-and-a-half-year old child, born in Kuwait, and asked to my passport. My child has no residence. How can we get a residence for the child?

XDR.

KHALED TAHER, our attorney, said you are breaking the immigration rules as you did not inform the authorities about the birth of your child. A birth of a child must be notified within a month. Taher said you must, immediately, inform the immigration authority, which will send your case to the court, which may decide in your favour.

We (AT) made enquiries on your behalf and were told by the immigration authority that family (dependant) visas are given to expatriates who have a child born in Kuwait. Visa for children can also be obtained if both parents are working and hold visa No. 18, provided the child is born in Kuwait. It is almost impossible to get a residence permit for a child whose father holds a No. 18 visa and mother is on article 20 sponsorship. An immigration official said that in such cases, "Restrictions and rules do not allow the addition of a child's name to their parents' igama. Also, such restrictions do not permit us to add the child's name to a father's passport."

WE would like to know about an agency located in Jleeb Al Shiyookh that is recruiting domestic servants for Canada. Is this agency permitted by the law in Kuwait? We need your final assessment and information.

Fes, Montisori.

The law does not permit the establishment of recruiting agencies, unless licensed, to import labour. A ministerial draft law, under study, will regulate procedures for recruitment agencies. As you must be aware, labourers are imported to meet the needs of the market.

We advise you not to depend on promises of a "job or a visa" made by any recruiting agency in Kuwait to migrate to Canada. Furthermore, recruitment by an agency is no guarantee that you will obtain a visa for Canada. Only the Canadian immigration department officials are authorised to select prospective migrants, based on the merits of individual applications. We are aware of some agencies in Kuwait charging from KD 1 to KD 10 to fill in an application form with promises of getting a job for some people in Canada. If you want to migrate to Canada, you can fill in the form yourself, or ask a friend to fill it up for you. It is not necessary to go through an agency to do that. Some agents "promise jobs and migration." No agent, whether in Kuwait or Canada, can guarantee migration.

Getting a job in Canada is only one step in the procedure to get a visa, without which you cannot work in Canada. It would be advisable to apply for a visa through the Canadian Immigration Office in Kuwait.

I WOULD like to bring my maternal uncle on a visit visa to Kuwait. I draw a salary of KD 650 per month. Kindly clarify what the rules and regulations about the above. Am I entitled to bring him on my sponsorship?

Khaled.

YOUR query was addressed to the Legal Clinic. As it is an immigration matter, we are replying to you through the Action Line column. Visit visas, valid for a month, are issued by Kuwait's Immigration Department. To apply, you'll have to submit a copy of the visitor's passport and documentary evidence to prove relationship and three passport size photographs of the visitor. You also need a recently issued salary certificate, issued by your employer and a copy of your Civil ID card. These must be submitted to the immigration authorities with a duly completed application form, available from offices in Shurwaikh, Hawalli or Fahaeel. An immigration official said that "salary (must be) suitable to cover a visitor's expenses." Acceptance of an application depends on the discretion of the Immigration Department.

I HAVE a query with regard to my responsibilities to my maid in respect of a ticket to her country of origin. Am I legally obliged to pay her in lieu of holidays not taken, or any form of gratuity.

D.C.H.

AS YOU may be aware, maids are not covered by the private sector labour law, governing the employment of expatriates. However, there are several common practices regarding employment of domestic servants.

A contract between an employer and his domestic helper is an agreement between two parties, which in most instances, an employer follows to pay salary, vacation salary and other benefits, as mutually agreed. In the absence of a written contract, an employer makes a verbal agreement. This is one of the many common practices regarding employment of domestic helpers. Another is that an employer buys an air ticket every two years when the maid goes on holiday. Such practices also include giving her pay in lieu of holidays not taken. Some employers also pay gratuity to long serving domestic servants. Some employers have also built homes for maids in their country of origin who served them for 25/30 years.

All employers, however, must provide an air ticket to a maid whose visa has been cancelled, i.e. final cancellation of visa. The immigration authority require an air ticket to provide an exit permit for the maid leaving Kuwait for good. If the maid tells them that she can't afford to pay her fare, the immigration officials call the employer and ask him to pay.

It would be advisable to buy the air ticket. Our lawyer, consulted by us, also said an employer was "obliged to buy the air ticket" if a maid's visa is being cancelled.

In previous years, a person could go to the nearest port and re-enter Kuwait on a new visa. However, in recent years, the law says that such people must "return to their country of origin" and return.

There is no legal binding, perhaps, only a humanitarian obligation, which most employers don't live up to, perhaps, another common practice.

I'M A housemaid. I would like to find out what I have to do to come back and work in Kuwait with another employer after my two months vacation in my country. Please help me and tell me what to do.

ARE you cancelling your present visa to go on vacation? Has your contract ended with the present employer? If the answer to both questions is yes, then we suggest you look for another employer who'll get you a new visa before going on the two month vacation. However, if you are only going on vacation with a promise to return and work for your present employer, then you are obliged to rejoin duty with that family.

It's rather difficult to guide you on how to find another job. Perhaps, you could talk to your friends and ask them if anyone is looking for a housemaid. To re-enter Kuwait, you must have a visa, which can only be issued by your sponsor — the person employing you. However, it is not advisable to pay for a visa as this is illegal and a punishable offence.

If you came to Kuwait through an agent, you could contact him again to find you new employment.

If you have a query, need clarification of rules pertaining to immigration, communications or any other matter, or need advice, drop in a line to: Action Line, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to 4847495.

JOIN THE LEADERS...

The first National Food Company in Kuwait is looking for:

- 1) Heavy Duty Drivers
- 2) Labourers/Helpers
- 3) Janitors
- 4) Assistant Storekeeper (Driving Lic. & car essential)

Essential Requirements:

- ★ Transferable residence
- ★ Written/Spoken English
- ★ Previous experience

Please call: 5724177 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

REQUIRED TV-VIDEO-HIFI TECHNICIANS

Masoolah Trading Co. W.L.L.

requires qualified and experienced TV-Video-HIFI technicians for its consumer products division.

Candidates must have transferable work visa and a valid Kuwaiti driving licence.

Attractive salaries and incentive benefits would be offered to successful candidates. Apply in confidence to:

Personnel Manager
TVT
P.O. Box: 177
Safat 13002
Kuwait.

WANTED

An experienced salesman for a shop dealing in household items. Those having experience in household items and transferable residence contact Tel. No. 2661120 (5-8 pm).

TO LET

Furnished flats
Three bedrooms, a studio and bathrooms, with VCR, telephone and satellite dish American/European systems. Call
Al Aroumah Real Estate Establishment
Tel. 5733456 - 5718382
5656690 - 5656567

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon, 4 to 7.00 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts: rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Tareq Rajab Museum
Sat - Thurs.: 9-12 noon and 4-7 pm. Also open on Fridays from 9 to 12 noon.

SOCIAL

"Hotter Than July"

July 7 (Friday): A pop, rock, country and reggae music festival to be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel Ballroom from 7 to 10 pm. The groups to be featured are Top Ranks, Earthquake, Zambesi, Manila Boys, Louie Villaveau, Daniel Sisters and special guest appearance by Steve Michael. Tickets priced at KD5/- are available at: Messilah Beach Hotel - Tel. 5624111 Ext. 721/729; Art Corner, Nagra: 2665068/2659820; Swan Lake Recording, Salamiya: 5721030; No. 1 Records, Sultan Center - 5719620 Ext. 46.

Special offer for office and home delivery of tickets please call 2669963, 3928504 and 5639589.

Musical instruments will be given as gifts on entrance tickets.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.17 am
Zuhr	11.52
Asr	3.26 pm
Maghreb	6.52
Isha	8.23

Red and Black nite

JULY 11: The Weekend Club will host the Red & Black Nite at the Sheikhha Ballroom of the Regency Palace with Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers and Stepping Stones in attendance. Dress is informal but red and black combinations. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Couple, most original costume and a live contest. Gala buffet dinner is included. For reservations contact Hilary: 5741380 Julio: 5734513 and Mercedes: 4890566.

D'Assisi Social Evening

AUG 1: D'Assisi Association will hold their social evening at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The highlights of the evening will be the crowning of D'Assisi Queen. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide the music. For more information contact Joe Jack Ferns on 5644178, Henry 3717346 or contact A.M. Fine Armst. Shop No. 34, Al Karak Super Market, near GPO, Kuwait.

United Goans

AUG 3: Summerbelle '89 is about to happen. United Goans Centre present "Top Ranks and Stepping Stones" in a music saturated evening at the Tent SAS Hotel. Crowning of Summerbelle, various competitions, etc. to keep you on your toes. For details contact: Moses 2454266, Joe 5655140 Anicet 2439249 after 6 pm.

Tivim Centre

OCT. 26: Tivim Centre's Breeze 89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel New Ballroom at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Lot of surprises await. For further information contact the organisers.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Best Master
Al Salamiya
Revenge of the Nerds II
Al Hamra
Booby Trap
Al Firdos
Arabic film
Al Firdos
Tera Karam Mera Dharam
Fahsheel Open-Air
Mahachor

HOTELS

At the Messilah Beach

AL MUBARAKIAH, the only 24 hour restaurant in Kuwait, offers a full spectrum of local and Continental specialties with daily buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner plus A La Carte menu.

Al Jawharah Super Night Club, live entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band with extensive A La Carte menu on Wednesdays and special buffet on Thursdays.

Al Berdownah beach garden restaurant open daily Sunday to Friday offering a variety of succulent charcoal grills, Lebanese Mezza, freshly baked Markouk bread and hubble bubble.

At the SAS
WELCOME on board Al Boom. Dine on our delicious mezzah buffet followed by your favourite speciality from our wide selection of fine charcoal grills and finish off with della coffee or have a puff from the hubble bubble/puff. Dinner daily and lunch every Thursday and Friday. For reservation, call 5657000 ext 403 or 540.

At the Ramada Hotel
EL BENDAR coffee shop at the Ramada Hotel offers continental and Arabic buffets daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 mid night daily, a la carte also available. A selection of home baked cakes, gateaux and tarts made to order.
Marina take away counter offering a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks open from 4 pm till 11 pm daily.
Ramada Al Salam lobby lounge open 10 am to 11 pm on Sundays offering a selection of coffee, tea and juice, cakes and pastries available.

Television Programme

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning programme
9.30 Ifah Ya Simsim: children programme
10.15 Arabic daily serial.
11.20 Arabic serial.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Arabic weekly serial:
1.05 World Today via Satellite
1.30 Children serial.
2.15 Daily Arabic serial.
3.20 Religious encyclopedia
3.35 Cartoon serial.
4.00 Arabic serial: Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi
4.45 English film.
6.00 The Little Artist
7.00 Songs
7.15 Cultural programme
8.30 Religious programme: Fi Noor Al Islam
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Daily Arabic serial: Al Yaqeen
10.45 Arabic act: Al Qaeda Al Thababiya
12.00 World Today via Satellite and closedown.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Poppies: new cartoon series for young viewers
6.30 Owl: a documentary on nature, it examines various species; tonight.
7.00 The Wild World of Animals.
7.30 Full House.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Our House: a family drama revolving around Guss and his grandchildren.
9.30 Nuclear Age: this documentary examines the development of nuclear warheads and the race between the two superpowers.
10.30 Late night movie: "The River".
12.00 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite: Holy Quran/Closedown

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Care Bears cartoon
6.30 Sea Hunt.
7.00 Architecture at Crossroads: a new documentary it examines the architecture over the years.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Maelstrom.
9.30 The Secret World: "Insects".
10.00 Kate and Allie: this comedy revolves around unmarried women who share a flat and try to make a go at life.
10.30 Bestseller: "The Monocled Mutineer".
11.30 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite: Holy Quran/Closedown

MONDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon
6.30 Scheme of Things.
7.00 Roving Report.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles wants to find a way to stop the closure of a pizza shop at university

TUESDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Amigo and Friends: cartoon series
6.30 Captain Power.
7.00 The New Adventure of Ben Baxter.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Haj: a special programme on the pilgrimage
9.00 A Different Life: set in a

WEDNESDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Trollkins: cartoon series
6.30 Big Joe: recreation of the first trip made to the Antarctic
7.00 Danger Bay: Dr Grant wants to rescue a rare species of whale
7.30 Body Matters.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Haj: a special programme on the pilgrimage
9.00 Simon and Simon.
10.00 Learning Ropes.
10.30 L.A. Law: return of the much-acclaimed series, set in a law firm
11.30 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite: Holy Quran: Closedown

THURSDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 The Real Ghostbusters:
12.15 Variety programme: Tales with stars
2.15 New daily Arabic serial: Al Shams Baad Al Choyum (Sun after Clouds), Starring: Jamil Awad, Juliet Awad.
4.45 Arabic act: Hub Hufez Fi Al Arsh.
7.00 Historical serial: Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat
8.15 Variety programme with actress Sameera Ahmad
10.45 Arabic feature film: Ayma Wa Layali
12.30 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

FRIDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Children magazine
6.30 Religious programme: Search for adventure
8.30 Religious programme: La'nat Al Mal, Starring: Yousef Shaaban, Eiman
12.15 Songs
1.15 World Today via Satellite

SATURDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Ifah Ya Simsim
6.30 Cultural film
7.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.45 Children and summer
8.30 Cultural programme: Holy Quran and Science
9.45 Local programme: Monday Evening
11.15 Weekly Arabic serial: Ithmalat
12.15 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

SUNDAY

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Ifah Ya Simsim
6.30 Cultural film
7.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.45 Children and summer
8.30 Cultural programme: Holy Quran and Science
9.45 Local programme: Monday Evening
11.15 Weekly Arabic serial: Ithmalat
12.15 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

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6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Ifah Ya Simsim
6.30 Cultural film
7.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.45 Children and summer
8.30 Cultural programme: Holy Quran and Science
9.45 Local programme: Monday Evening
11.15 Weekly Arabic serial: Ithmalat
12.15 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

KTV I weekly highlights

SATURDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning programme
9.30 Ifah Ya Simsim: Children Programme
10.15 Arabic daily serial: Hafat Al Hawiya
12.15 Arabic Weekly serial: Min Ajel Ghadi
3.20 Religious encyclopedia
3.35 Cartoon serial: Bibi Folk and Calimiro
4.45 English film: Mr Sycamore
6.00 The Little Artist
8.30 Religious programme: Fi Noor Al Islam
10.45 Arabic act: Al Qaeda Al Thababiya

SUNDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.30 Cartoons
12.15 That's Incredible
2.15 Arabic serial: Imra' La Ta'raf Al Yaas
4.45 Arabic film: Ayam Al

TUESDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.30 Cartoons
12.15 That's Incredible
2.15 Arabic serial: Imra' La Ta'raf Al Yaas
4.45 Arabic film: Ayam Al

WEDNESDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.30 Cartoons
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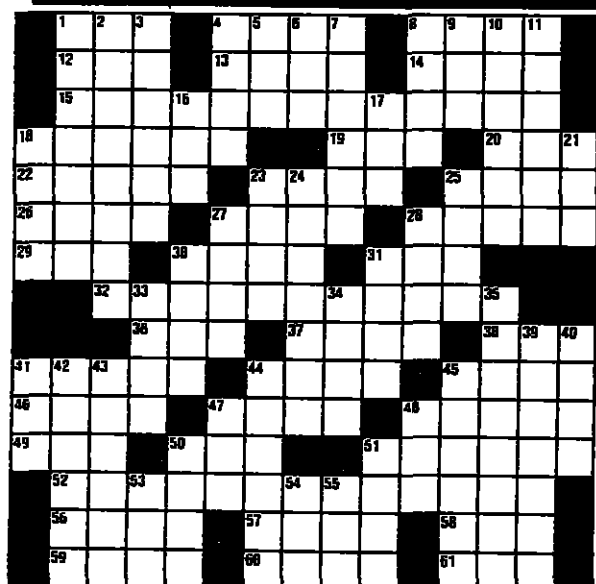
FRIDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
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SATURDAY

9.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.30 Cartoons
12.15 That's Incredible
2.15 Arabic serial: Imra' La Ta'raf Al Yaas
4.45 Arabic film: Ayam Al

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Balaam's mount
 - Burns, for one
 - Boston —
 - Actress Hagen
 - Welles role
 - Jai trailer
 - Astaire-Caron film of 1955
 - Building beam
 - Face the target
 - Baseball's Mel
 - Scholar's arrival time, in a rhyme
 - Valued Chinese porcelain
 - Hoosier humorist
 - George and family
 - Avon driver
 - Bat lightly
 - Lewis Carroll creature
 - Comment from Sandy
 - Store event
 - the line
 - Chesterton sleuth
 - Gymnast's landing place
 - Adolescent
 - Brouhaha
 - One of the Dogpatch Yokums
 - Flamingo's hue
 - Prayer ending
 - Start of a Shakespearean title
 - Way
 - Fishing line
 - Oahu gairland
 - Cartographer's product
 - Slander
 - Noted novelist, to friends
 - Nabokov character
 - Days of old
- DOWN**
- Make do, with "out"
 - Palindromic name
 - Cheese tray
 - Wells role
 - sails in the sunset...
 - Taxpayer's nemesis
 - Set out
 - Depress
 - Desert made from cream
 - White House nickname
 - Yoko
 - Lease holder
 - Seer's reading matter
 - Violinist
 - Bull
 - Part of an Asian skyline
 - Dreiser's "Carrie"
 - Family room
 - Jazz player's engagement
 - Festive occasion
 - Presently
 - Reprieve
 - Tough trip
 - 33 Elec. units
 - Crouch
 - Junior
 - Late in arriving
 - "the Lonely"
 - 1960 hit
 - Chum
 - Syrian city
 - Elastic
 - Robin Williams role
 - Comeback
 - Team cheer
 - Mr., in Milano
 - war bird
 - Word form for "memory"
 - Opera orchestra's locale
 - Up-to-date, briefly
 - General Eaker

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DATA SRE SEDATE
OMISSION PLATEN
MANHATTAN ISLAND
GAT ERAL
FEZMOROCCO ABRI
IDEO MNT SOUR
GIBBON EACH DBS
BUSBYBERKELEY
ILL ICER SWORDS
DEUS LIFE WEEP
ISNT HOODLINKED
OMEI MAL
DEMOLITIONDERBY
ATOLLS SNEAKIER
BAISSET ADS EINES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J8 ♥ K107 ♦ K983 ♣ 10542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QJ104 ♥ 6 ♦ AQJ105 ♣ A63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQJ9762 ♥ AQ ♦ K ♣ AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQJ9762 ♥ AQ ♦ K ♣ AKQ

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQJ762 ♥ Q9 ♦ J107 ♣ 876
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ5 ♥ AQ632 ♦ K87 ♣ QJ3
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond? Look for answers Monday.



"You arrive at 5 p.m. and your connecting flight leaves at 7 p.m. That leaves you only two hours to clear customs."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

In doing what you like doing you should not forget what has to be done though you do not like doing it. Do not let others steal the initiative from you. Do not use an electrical device that is even slightly faulty. Be a little more tolerant.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have to take another look at your financial position. Do your best to ensure that a small infection does not get worse. Try not to allow anyone or anything to disturb your inner peace of mind.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The situation is more complicated than it seems and you must not judge by appearance. Your lucky numbers are 25 and 48. The Moon's influence will help you to come to the right decision. Be responsive.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

In doing what you like doing you should not forget what has to be done though you do not like doing it. Do not let others steal the initiative from you. Do not use an electrical device that is even slightly faulty. Be a little more tolerant.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Try and leave as little as possible for later — do it now if at all possible. Do not spend too much time dealing with secondary matters. You will be able to do something your partner likes and should do so. Be practical.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Do not take everything quite so literally but nor should you turn a deaf ear. You will tend to be rather more nervous and easily tired than of late. Do not take too much if anything for granted. Be sincere.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will tend to get caught up in detail and should make sure you do not lose sight of the wood for the trees. You will have something to be pleased about but do not be too smug about it.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

A secondary matter should not be allowed to get out of proportion. You should try to control your impulses. You will not be able to get your way in all things and you will have to make a few concessions. Be reliable.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You should do your best not to get things out of proportion. If you expect something for nothing you will not get it. You should not make up your mind on the spur of the moment. Be generous.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will have something to attend to right away and should be sure to do so. Avoid eating anything that is stale. Do not do anything you are not quite sure is right or feel is wrong. Be logical.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You are far too inclined to act on impulse — don't. You should not seek to do too many things all at once. You should avoid jumping to conclusions and should reserve your judgement. Be moderate.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Not everything is as it seems and you should not take things at their face value. Have a little more faith in yourself. Try not to allow others to get on your nerves, or you on theirs. Be attentive.

Four Kuwait University deans resign

Two top administrators also quit

By Lina Al Khaleel
Arab Times staff

In an unprecedented move, four deans of Kuwait University tendered their resignations ten days ago to the Rector of Kuwait University, Dr. Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib.

The four are: Dean of Faculty of Science, Dr. Fayeza Al Khorafi, Dean of Admission and Registration, Dr. Moustafa Ma'rifi, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Science, Dr. Modhi Al Humoud and Dean of Faculty of

Arts, Dr. Abdullah Al Muhana. In the light of these resignations, the new rector assigned four personnel to look after the responsibility of the four deans who resigned.

The new appointees are: Dr. Sabah Qaddomi for Admission

and Registration, Dr. Khaled Al Saad for the Faculty of Commerce, Economic and Political Science, Dr. Jassem Abdul Salam for the Faculty of Science, and Dr. Yousef Al Moutawa for the Faculty of Arts.

Arab Times also learnt that

another two top administrators at Kuwait University who submitted their resignations are Assistant Rector for Scientific Research, Dr. Kazem Behbehani and Assistant Rector for Medical Science, Dr. Basel Al Naqeb.

Rqobah returns

Integrated GCC grid plan

KUWAIT, June 30, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Hamoud Abdullah Al Rqobah returned home from Riyadh yesterday after heading Kuwait's delegation to the meetings of the Electricity and Water Co-operation Committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council which wound up in Riyadh Wednesday night.

The minister and the delegation accompanying him were received on arrival by the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Mahmoud Baker and other ministry's officials.

The delegation that accompanied the minister grouped the Undersecretary Engineer Abdullah Al Mumayyeh and other ranking officials.

On arrival, the minister told KUNA that he met with GCC ministers of Electricity in Riyadh and discussed a number of topics on agenda of meeting and other developments.

He described the meetings as positive and fruitful, adding that the ministers have tackled all issues on agenda in a single day.



On fire

A garbage truck caught fire in Shuwaikh area yesterday. Fire brigades rushed to the scene and put off the fire. It was learnt that the fire was caused when the hydraulic pump of the truck was being welded. No one was injured.

From the courts

40 months for sexual assault

A BUS driver was sentenced to 40 months imprisonment to be followed by deportation for sexually assaulting a 10-year old school girl.

The court was told that the accused was employed to drive school children to and from their homes to the school. The court was further told that the accused intentionally delayed taking the victim directly to her home on several occasions and instead used to take her to an isolated place and sexually assault her.

In the last incident, the driver took her in a pick-up to an isolated place and repeated the act. He warned the girl not to tell her parents. But the girl informed her father who immediately contacted the police.

Diligent questioning of the girl by police ascertained that the driver had sexually assaulted her over a period of two months.

In his defence, the accused claimed that he only kissed the girl on her cheek and described it as "a kiss from a father to his daughter."

The Criminal Court who tried the case, after deliberations, sentenced the accused to five-years imprisonment to be followed by deportation.

The accused appealed the verdict at the Court of Higher Appeals claiming that he did not rape the girl and only kissed her on the cheek.

The Court of Higher Appeal in its judgement decreed that sexual intercourse had been proven, but added that as the girl was 10-years old, she was well aware of what the accused was doing to her and the accusation of rape was not substantiated. The court took into consideration that there was consent of the girl and reduced the charges from rape to having illicit sexual relationship with a minor with her consent. The court based on these deliberations reduced the original sentence to 40 months imprisonment, but upheld the deportation order.

Jail for selling whisky

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to five-years imprisonment and two of his companions two-years imprisonment each to be followed by deportation for smuggling and trading in whisky.

The court was told that a police officer learnt that a man named Sperko M. was selling whisky. A decoy was asked to purchase the contraband from the accused.

On telephoning the accused, the third accused identified as Nacolan K. answered and agreed to sell six bottles of whisky and added that it will be sent through the second accused.

At the appointed time and place, the second accused identified as Sperko M. arrived and handed over the whisky in exchange for an amount of KD150 supplied by the police.

On completion of the transaction, the police officer who was keeping a vigil in the same building arrested the second accused who guided him to the third accused.

During investigations, the two confessed to the charges and said that they were obtaining the liquor from Steven K. who used to smuggle it from Iraq in his truck.

A police stake out resulted in the arrest of Steven later the same day.

Health code for special diet foods

THE Minister of Public Health Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzaq has issued a ministerial decision endorsing a proposed code for regulating the registration of special diet commodities in Kuwait.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the foods include special dietary recipes for diabetic patients, food with high or low calorie levels, or those free from certain nutritional components, such as sodium, gelatine or lactose.

He said that the code also covered foods for babies. Weaning foods and those intended for administration during developmental stages, as well as foods for athletes and the elderly.

The ministerial decision also banned the production and marketing of special foods without prior registration with the ministry's special food section, stressing that applications submitted for this purpose should include specimens of the foods in question, the spokesman added.

The spokesman added that the documents to be attached to applications for special foods registration must include a certificate from the country of origin certifying that the manufacturer is authorised to practice his line of business. A certified power of attorney from the producer if the importer is an agent, a certificate to prove that the product is a food commodity and is meant to be used as such under the same component material, a certificate proving that the commodity is free from alcohol, antibiotics, hormones.

Arab airlines must unite, says Mishari

Call to establish regional system

By Khaled Ahmad

CHAIRMAN and Managing Director of the Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), Ahmad Al Mishari warned that the Arab aviation markets will be dominated by foreign airlines if Arab national carriers do not unite and co-operate.

"The near future is an era of collaboration and formation of alliances among the world airlines and some such alliances have already come into existence," Mishari said. He said that alliances have become the new form of close co-operation between airline companies. A number of companies that establish an alliance among them, aim at preserving their interests and protecting the markets. By the form of the alliance, they can reduce their operational costs and at the same time increase their revenues, Mishari stressed. He added that alliances started appearing in the US market and then the idea was transferred to Europe. Its intensity will certainly increase after 1992, when the EEC members are planning to remove economic barriers.

Competition

However, Mishari ruled out the possibility of the establishment of international carriers that exceed in its ownership the borders of a single country. But

he expected that the world market will shortly witness "more rush towards closer co-operation" and the possibility of airlines entering into marketing links and operational alliances. Mishari added that what makes it more urgent for the Arab carriers to co-ordinate, is that the competition in the aviation field is no more a price competition only. It has become a competition wider in concept and as a marketing issue, by providing full-fledged services to the passengers. He said that the major international carriers are equipped with highly advanced reservation systems, in which they have invested hundreds of millions of dollars. He said that these systems govern the commodity, selling the ticket. He added that for example, the names of Arab carriers won't appear on the screens of computers adopting the US or the European systems, except in the last pages, thus depriving them from gaining passengers. The Arab national carriers, Mishari said, pay millions of dollars to get access to services offered by these systems. He stressed that the Arab national carriers cannot deal with foreign companies on equal footing, until we have a comprehensive Arab system for reservation and distribution.

Mishari said that Kuwait was the first in the Arab world to

realise the necessity of co-ordination between Arab carriers. Kuwait called 12 years ago for the establishment of an Arab Computerised Reservation System and a consortium among some Arab carriers. He said that conditions then did not help materialise the proposal, because no interest was shown by some Arab carriers. But KAC still continued pioneering all the efforts exerted till now for achieving co-ordination and collaboration among the Arab national carriers.

KAC also played an important role in the establishment of the GCC-Marriott services company at Heathrow Airport which included the three GCC national carriers. He added that it was KAC which proposed the establishment of a pan-Arab company for financing the buying and hiring of planes. He said that the project is in its final stages and the company will be announced shortly. He said that 12 Arab carriers have expressed support to the company, which will enable Arab carriers to have a strong financial source thus having access to obtaining their requirements of planes at very reduced rates. The company will also help unify Arab specifications of planes, thus enhancing further co-ordination among them. Mishari described the project as very vital.



Liquor brewers arrested

AHMADI detectives yesterday arrested three Filipinos for brewing and selling alcohol. The three have been identified as Robin G. Roper T., and Orando S.

The first accused confessed that he was prepar-

ing the alcohol and selling it at KD8 per bottle in co-operation with the other two suspects. The suspects along with the contraband have been referred to investigation authorities.

Water-melons replace onions and garlic

THE decision to replace onion and garlic stalls with water-melons at the second building of the market at the Vegetables and Fruits Market was announced by the State Minister for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Al Sayed Abdul Mehsin.

The decision prompted water-melon stall owners at the first building of the market to express their dissatisfaction at the increase of water-melon stalls at the second building.

Unfair

Salman Karzem, a fruit salesman at the first building said that the second building took away most of his customers. He added that it is unfair to deprive salesmen of the first building their daily profits.

Mohammed Saad, another water-melon salesman at the first building said that stalls at the

second building were replaced with rented stalls which made things go out of control. He pointed out that customers could do all their shopping at the first building without having to go to the second building. Therefore, he believes that water-melons sales should only be at the first building. He said that stalls at the second building were distributed in an unorganised manner. He called for unifying water locations for the sale of water-melons at the Vegetables and Fruits Market.

Rahem Hassan who is a water-melon salesman said that the decision will harm their interests because the first building could accommodate the entire trade of incoming fruits and vegetables.

On the other hand, a salesman at the second building said that there are more fruits and vegeta-

ble trucks at the second building than the first. He added that customers should have total freedom in choosing between the two buildings and that he did not see the need for restricting consumer choice. He also believed that there is no genuine reason for complaint.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

KEEP an open mind and be receptive to modern ideas —
Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian nationalist leader (1889-1964).

Afghan war near genocidal

Values blasted into oblivion

By Sharon Herbaugh

SHATTERED, crumbling mud huts tell the tales their inhabitants probably never will — the devastation that turned thousands of Afghan villages into graveyards.

Families that tilled the orchards and fields for unknown generations have disappeared. The silence is broken only by an occasional burst of gunfire or a military convoy roaring through the valleys where shattered villages cling to the 5,000-metre (15,000-foot) mountains like an image of Armageddon.

What happened to villages like Lalma, Babagilala, Babamardan and Babashangrul will not be known until the war between government forces and Muslim guerrillas is over and accounts can be pieced together from villagers who escaped.

After a decade of war, the barbarity has become widely known. But in the Hindu Kush mountains, along the river valleys and across the plains where the armies of Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan once marched, the scenes of devastation go beyond what was previously known about the conflict.

And international relief workers fear they are only beginning to learn of the destruction wrought on the rebel-controlled countryside.

"There are black holes, places no one has been for years and probably won't get to until the war is over. But if what we know now is a barometer of the level of destruction, this war has been almost genocidal," said one international aid worker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Asif Zahir, minister of planning and reconstruction, says at least half of the country's 35,500 villages have been bombed, shelled and rocketed into oblivion. Fields, orchards and irrigation canals vital to this agriculturally dependent society are in ruins.

Once peace is restored, relief workers say, it will take years and billions of dollars to bring what was already one of the world's poorest countries back to the point where it was in April 1978 when the Marxist government seized power and civil war erupted.

Government and military officials say the devastation occurred progressively over 11 years of fighting — the rebels occupied the villages — the Afghan armed forces and Soviet support troops tried to uproot them.

Across Afghanistan, in villages and towns of the western, southern and eastern provinces, the conflict has destroyed all semblance of civilised living. Entire districts lie in rubble. Schools, medical care facilities and public utilities have disappeared.

Soldiers of the Soviet-backed Kabul government say much of the destruction occurred in the final weeks before Feb 15, when the Kremlin withdrew the last of its troops from Afghanistan.

Legacy of hunger

By Jeremy Clift

THE lines to buy bread form long before dawn.

A soldier stands guard by the baker as the queue of turbaned men and women in billowing chadors presses toward the oven where the flat bread is baked.

There is rarely enough of the cheap, government-subsidised bread to meet demand and people at the back often leave empty-handed.

The 10-year Afghan war has sharply driven up free market prices of food staples, putting them beyond the reach of many ordinary families, residents say.

A blockade of the capital Kabul early in the year created severe shortages of food and fuel.

But a Soviet airlift coupled with military strikes against the Muslim mujahideen has lifted the blockade, with convoys of trucks arriving almost daily down the mountainous Salang road from the Soviet border to the north.

"There were a lot of difficulties three or four months ago," says Kabul Mayor General Mohammad Hakim.

"But we made it. The weather was very severe, but fortunately nobody died of starvation. Right now things are getting better," said the US-trained officer, who retains a liking for American

hamburgers. He has been wounded in action by the mujahideen rebels several times.

Kabul's bazaars are crammed with goods from around the globe — radios from Japan, clocks from Shanghai and bicycles from England.

But inside the city of brick and baked-mud houses, life is as near normal as it can be after a decade of war.

Rising prices mean many families can afford only to live on a diet of bread, radishes and tea. Meat is a semi-luxury, residents say.

"We are living in bad war conditions," said Hakim in an interview with reporters at his city hall office.

"Because of their incomes, it is difficult for some families to get enough food. But that happens even in other countries."

"Maybe there is malnutrition, but nobody has died of starvation."

The average government worker in a ministry would get paid just 5,000-6,000 Afghanis (\$17-20 at free market rates) a month. "It makes it very difficult to afford anything extra, like school books for my children," a worker in one ministry said.

Hakim said that high prices had encouraged traders to accept big risks ferrying supplies in through rebel-held areas, often from Pakistan.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1499 — War breaks out between Turkey and Venice.
- 1535 — Sir Thomas More is tried for treason in England for refusing oath of supremacy.
- 1543 — England and Scotland sign Greenwich treaties to secure peace.
- 1775 — Spanish force fails to reduce pirate stronghold in Algiers.
- 1781 — British force under Eyre Coote defeats Indians under Sultan Hyder Ali, saving Madras from destruction.
- 1810 — Louis, King of Holland, abdicates under pressure from Napoleon Bonaparte.
- 1839 — Turkish fleet surrenders voluntarily to Mehmet Ali at Alexandria, Egypt.
- 1890 — Anglo-German agreement is signed, under which Britain exchanges Heligoland for Zanzibar and Pemba.
- 1895 — East African protectorate is organised after dissolution of British East Africa Company.
- 1910 — Union of South Africa becomes a dominion of British Empire.
- 1926 — Anglo-Portuguese agreement is reached on Southwest Africa-Angola boundary.
- 1931 — Anti-Chinese riots break out in Korea.
- 1962 — Africa's Ruanda Republic and Kingdom of Burundi gain their independence.
- 1966 — France withdraws all its armed forces from integrated NATO military force.
- 1967 — China's Communist Party proclaims overthrow of President Liu Shao Chi.
- 1968 — Britain, Soviet Union, United States and 58 non-nuclear nations sign treaty to curb spread of nuclear weapons.
- 1972 — Protestant Ulster defence association sets up steel barricades in Protestant areas of Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- 1988 — Two cars packed with explosives blow up in separate parts of Lebanon, killing at least one person and injuring 52.



Sadeq Al Mahdi, ousted

Sudanese officers angry

Frustration breeds coup

CAIRO, June 30, (Reuters): Frustration felt by Sudan's middle-ranking officers at the civilian government's failure to meet demands by the military last February appear to be a prime force behind the coup in Khartoum today.

According to Arab and Western diplomats in Khartoum, the officers, ranging in rank between majors and brigadiers, were the driving force behind the ultimatum handed to Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi last February to introduce political and economic reforms and to spend more money on defence.

The diplomats said many of the 150 officers who endorsed the ultimatum thought that Mahdi had since manoeuvred so that he got away without really meeting their demands.

They blamed Army chiefs for compromising with Mahdi, who had been in office since 1986, and who was seen today by a Reuters correspondent being escorted towards Khartoum's main prison.

"The big generals have since been trying to restrain those officers," one diplomat told Reuters in Khartoum last week.

The first statement on state Radio Omdurman announcing today's

military takeover said: "Your armed forces were united behind its famous (February) memorandum which it raised to warn against the dangers... and to equip the troops to carry out their duties."

"But the former (military) leadership failed because of its weakness to force the government to make available the minimum of the troops' requirements."

The diplomats said the officers were also angered by the arrest earlier this month of 14 fellow officers in connection with a coup plot the government said had been uncovered on June 18.

Authorities said the plotters had planned to bring back to power former President Jaafar Nimeiri, ousted in a 1985 military coup and living in Egypt in exile.

The leader of today's coup identified himself on Radio Omdurman as Brigadier Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

A statement by Bashir echoed parts of the February ultimatum when it charged that political parties had failed the people and led to Sudan's isolation internationally.

The coup leaders, according to witnesses in the Sudanese capital, have, along with Mahdi, detained his mini-

sters and Commander-in-Chief General Fathi Ahmed Ali. They imposed a nation-wide state of emergency, suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament and ordered a night-time curfew.

The February ultimatum reflected the frustration at all levels in Sudan's estimated 60,000-strong Army.

In the south, where it has fought a six-year-long war, the poorly-equipped and demoralised Army has in recent months been consistently humiliated by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), losing more than 12 garrison towns since the beginning of the year.

Military analysts believe neither side can win in the battlefield.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum that Bashir, who now heads a revolutionary council, was recently in command of a battalion of paratroopers in a combat tour in the south, where an earlier bout of civil war ended in 1972.

The diplomats said some Army units serving in the south, where a de facto truce has been in effect since May 1, went for months with little food and ammunition. Some units had no physicians, leaving nurses to operate on the wounded.

One unit which took sanctuary in neighbouring Uganda earlier this year after SPLA rebels overran its positions had been kept in isolation on the outskirts of Khartoum with some of its members suffering malnutrition and psychological disorder, according to the diplomats.

Mahdi told parliament on Monday that his government had secured military aid from Arab and East European countries, but the diplomats said most countries able to give substantial aid to the Army were shying away from involvement in what they saw as an internal conflict.

Today's coup announcement came as Khartoum, a mainly slum city of an estimated seven million people, suffered an acute shortage of bread, sugar and petrol. Hundreds of people took to the streets during the past two weeks to protest at the government's failure to make basic items available.

They chanted slogans calling for Nimeiri's return and for the government to hand over power to the military if it was unable to make bread available.

The coup was the fourth since Sudan became independent in 1956 and ended the country's third spell of democratic rule.

Al Mahdi's rise and fall

SADIQ AL MAHDI, ousted today from his country's most powerful political position for the second time in 22 years, has through his roller-coaster political career been a political detainee, prime minister, coup plotter and above all a survivor. Elected three years ago to a second-term as prime minister in Sudan's first democratic elections since 1966, Al Mahdi inherited a country beset by international bankruptcy and a festering civil war.

Under a chaotic and often contradictory stewardship during which Sudan saw four different governing coalitions, both problems grew worse, setting the stage for the military discontent that led to his overthrow.

Al Mahdi is the great grandson and spiritual heir of the Great Mahdi, the Sudanese nationalist leader and Muslim zealot who led the 1885 revolt against

Turco-British occupation of Sudan.

He became prime minister in May 1986 elections sponsored by the military leaders who overthrew the autocratic President Jaafar Nimeiri a year earlier, winning a plurality at the head of his Umma (nation) Party, which draws its support from the Ansar religious sect founded by his great grandfather.

After campaigning on a pledge to end the harsh Islamic "sharia" law introduced by Nimeiri and bring a halt to the war with southern Christian-led rebels, Al Mahdi formed a coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party, a middle-of-the-road Islamic grouping that placed second in the elections.

But he then shepherded through a provisional constitution that enshrined sharia, outraging the rebels, and rebuilt his coalition to bring in the

National Islamic Front — led by his brother-in-law Hussain Al Turabi — which adamantly opposed any settlement of the war.

That led last year to the defection of the peace-minded Democratic Unionists and a new Umma-NIF coalition that lasted only until February 1988 when the military demanded moves toward peace and a more broadly based government.

In March, Al Mahdi formed a fourth coalition that brought back the DUP and dropped the NIF, and promptly resumed efforts to negotiate a peace settlement with the rebels of the Sudan's People's Liberation Army.

Meanwhile, the war raged on, causing the deaths of 250,000 people by starvation in southern Sudan last year and further devastating the economy. The national debt rose in three years

under Al Mahdi from \$10 billion to more than \$13 billion.

Sadiq Al Mahdi was born Dec 25, 1935, and was educated in Khartoum, Cairo and at England's Oxford University where he graduated in 1957 in politics and economics.

He served as a junior inspector in the Sudanese Ministry of Finance in Khartoum for a few months before starting the meteoric political career in the traditionalist Umma grouping.

He became prime minister for the first time in 1966, falling from power the following year because of wrangling within his coalition after he announced he wanted to run for president.

When former president Jaafar Nimeiri assumed power on an initially socialist platform in 1969, Al Mahdi was several times detained as a political rival and put under house arrest.

Intifada poses dilemma

Torn 'tween two worlds

By Laura Blumenthal

NADIRA KAVORKIAN, An Israeli Arab social worker, felt helpless when the Palestinian girls in her discussion group showed her how they make Molotov cocktails.

"They make petrol bombs and I know they're going to use it against somebody. What should I do? Help me," Kavorkian said to a conference of mental health workers.

In her work with Arab teenagers, the vanguard of the Palestinian uprising, the 29-year-old Haifa native has been forced to see more and more how her intense relationship with the nationalistic youth has changed her sense of personal affiliation.

"Do we put aside our normal set of values during war time?" she asked Jewish and Arab mental health workers at a recent conference on "Psychological obstacles to peace."

"I feel schizophrenic. On the one hand I belong to my (Palestinian) nation. But on the other hand I have a responsibility as a social worker," she said.

In many ways, Kavorkian lives in two overlapping worlds — the Israeli and the Palestinian. She is one of 700,000 Arabs born in Israel, who are citizens of the Jewish state. She is married to an Armenian and lives in Jerusalem's old city.

Kavorkian lectures at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Bethlehem University, which was closed by Israeli authorities at the start of the intifada, the Arabic word for uprising.

Kavorkian's involvement with Palestinian teenagers began two years ago at the funeral of a Palestinian killed by soldiers in a crowded refugee camp outside the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

During the funeral, Kavorkian noticed the teenagers sat alone, ignored by the elders. She decided to form discussion groups to give the adolescents an outlet for their feelings.

"Before the intifada, they had fringed feelings about their families, their school and their refugee camp. Now suddenly the children are bombarded by conflicting ideas," she said. "Everything is upside down. They need to listen."

In the groups, the boys and girls, who have lived under Israeli occupation their entire lives, tell Kavorkian about their experiences — the latest casualty, arrest or house demolition in the camp. Children are wounded almost daily by Army gunfire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Her role as neutral social worker has been tested as students made Molotov cocktails in front of her. Soldiers have orders to open fire on Molotov cocktail throwers, "but for the children, the firebombs are a symbol of hope," Kavorkian said. So she stands by helplessly.

"How can I ask my kids to look at Israeli soldiers as something other than the enemy?" she asked her colleagues. "It is very risky to talk to them about co-operation because there is violence with Israelis every day. I may be accused of something."

Recently, the Army barred Kavorkian from visiting her students in the refugee camp. The soldiers contended that she incited the children. Yet at times it seems as if the young rebels dictate the course of discussion and not her.

"If I work on softening their feelings of anger and fear toward Israelis, it will undermine their fighting spirit. They say, 'You guys are getting us depressed and we won't throw stones the next day.' As a social worker, I should get them to talk, but as a Palestinian I should cheer them on."

There have been moments in Kavorkian's high-wire life when she nearly lost her balance. During one session with the Palestinian youths, she took out a notebook that had Hebrew University printed on the cover in Hebrew.

"I saw the horror on their faces and I felt terrible," she said.

At times circumstances have forced Kavorkian to choose between her conflicting loyalties. When a girl from her group was killed by Army gunfire during a demonstration, she was overwhelmed, like her students, with hatred for Israelis.

The day of the funeral, the Army clamped a curfew on the camp. Kavorkian stood at the gate begging the soldiers to let her in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bullets for democracy

SIR: Democracy is something all human beings love to have — for all undemocratic aspects of life are nothing but a dracula to society. Practising hooliganism and trying to destroy the national wealth to gain democracy is terrorism. Yet there should be a humanitarian source of action to handle or punish such people who try to gain access to democracy by way of terrorism.

No civilized man will admire the dirty and disastrous way the Chinese leaders dealt with the students who sought democracy. Sure, the uprising had to be controlled, but not in the inhumane manner that the authorities of China used. The way they executed the youths was shameful and it will go into the black pages of world history then they dared make others witness the shooting down of these young Chinese students after their capture, without a trial, like stray dogs to make them die and lie on the earth without the dignity of death.

In the world, humanism is the highest

expression of man's concern, love and compassion for the fellow human being regardless of their race, religion, class, colour and community. Some have by precept and example guided mankind along the path of love, compassion, virtue non-violence and peace and consequently raised it to a higher state of culture and civilization, but modern China's old leaders had no humanitarian thoughts of their ancient humanist Lao Tzu even, when dealing with the student rioters of their country recently. It was a pity that those in the supreme position of authority, did not even bring the offen-

ders to justice, but decided on ad hoc slaughtering.
Democracy they asked for, bullets they got.

Amala Edirisilunga,
Safat.

Dignity of labour

SIR: Man of the Year award must surely go to Jihad Musa, the first Kuwaiti picture boy, for his spunk and guts and initiative, above all for his example to other Kuwaitis. Jihad knows the great truth that there is dignity in work,

especially work well done by oneself and not by a servant.

It's laughable that others would reprimand him for taking up "this form of profession". Those who regard him and sneer are ignorant and unsighted and Jihad's reply to them should be a two-word dismissal, "He could also point out that repairing tyres in a garage in Shuwaikh is far more positive than driving around aimlessly in a Mercedes or a BMW for hours on end. Think of nonsense impresses nobody."

John Finnegan,
Khartoum.

No change in US commitment to Gulf

WASHINGTON, June 30, (KUNA): The slight redeployment of American naval forces in the Indian Ocean will not have any effect in any way on the American commitment to defend the international waterways of the Arabian Gulf region, the Pentagon emphasized here yesterday. And US naval presence inside the Gulf waters will not be affected at this time.

"There is no change in our commitment to the Indian Ocean and we will continue to have a presence in the region," said Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams.

According to the redeployment of these US naval forces, there may be

times when there will not be carrier battle groups operating in the Indian Ocean, "but this in no way diminishes our commitment to the security of that region," Williams asserted.

The Pentagon believes that this new approach, details of which have not been divulged, will be sufficient as far as the US is concerned, especially in view

of the presence of the US allies in the region.

"The Gulf is a region of vital US interest and we have always maintained sufficient forces to protect this interest and will continue to do so," the spokesman said.

He explained, in response to news-men's questions at the daily briefing,

that America's long-standing policy has always been that "we would maintain a military presence commensurate with the threat. If circumstances change, we are prepared to adjust as necessary."

Williams said the US allies in the Arab Gulf region were advised ahead of time about the redeployment changes.

Asked specifically if the number of ships within the Arabian Gulf itself will be reduced as a result of the redeployment in the Indian Ocean, Williams said:

"I am unaware of any change in our commitment to the Gulf. There are 20 ships operating there and I am unaware of any change in that commitment."

Israeli settlers hike in occupied areas

US expands PLO contacts

BATFIR, occupied West Bank, June 30, (Agencies): Hundreds of Israelis hiked in the occupied territories with Army guards today to dramatize their claim to the disputed land, but soldiers blocked one group of armed settlers from marching through an Arab village.

Israel radio said about 2,000 people took part in today's hikes, most in the West Bank. Critics complained the marches were a provocation to the Palestinians and a burden on the Army.

Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, head of the Army's central command, landed in a helicopter and personally ordered armed hikers from the anti-Arab Kach Party from entering the village of Batfir near the biblical town of Bethlehem.

"This is a minority creating trouble," Mitzna told reporters about two kilometres (a mile) from the village. "If we have to arrest them, we'll arrest them. We won't let them go anywhere."



Legislators of the ruling Likud Party hike through the Arab village Aln Kinya, in West Bank (Reuters wirephoto)

Mitzna said soldiers stopped the 20 members of the group headed by American-born rabbi Meir Kahane because they defied Army orders to hike only with soldier escorts, aimed at preventing any clashes with Palestinians.

In the Gaza Strip, PLO-backed activists declared a three-day general strike to protest the deportation of eight Palestinians from the seaside strip and the West Bank yesterday. Masked youths ordered shops in Gaza city to shut down.

Similar strikes were reported in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Al Bireh, just north of Jerusalem.

Israeli officials defended the expulsions, despite criticism from the United States and the United Nations that the deportations violate the Geneva Convention on treatment of people in occupied lands.

"We are talking about people who took part in terrorist activities and incited violence in the area. It was a necessary step and we can withstand the international criticism," said Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel said the eight Palestinians deported were leaders of the 18-month intifada against Israeli occupation, and were activists in factions of the outlawed PLO.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine today said negotiations for handing over the body of Israeli soldier Samir Assad were suspended in retaliation for Israel deporting eight Palestinians.

The DFLP also accused the Israeli Army of deliberately killing Mohammed Abu Al Nasr who had earlier kidnapped an American relief worker.

The DFLP denied that Al Nasr was a member of their organisation.

The Bush administration has secretly expanded its contacts with the PLO, meeting at least twice in Tunis with the PLO's second-highest official Salah Khalaf, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

The Post quoted State Department officials as saying Khalaf's comments to the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) were essentially correct. In an interview with the agency, he disclosed he had met twice with the US Ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau.

He did meet with Salah Khalaf and discussed issues related to the (US) dialogue, but our objectives remain the same," one official was quoted as saying.

Khalaf, known as Abu Iyad, said at his most recent meeting Monday he and Pelletreau discussed Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has proposed that Palestinians in the occupied territories vote for representatives to hold talks with Israel on an interim period of self-rule.

Israel voiced dismay and surprise today at reports the US was holding secret meetings with Abu Iyad, whom it regards as a terrorist.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel regretted the meetings.

Israel said today it had protested to Washington over secret meetings between Pelletreau and Abu Iyad, whom Israel regards as a terrorist.

Israeli-Romeo and Juliet Love conquers

RISHON LETZION, Israel, June 30, (AP): A young Arab refugee and a Jewish woman have done what is almost unthinkable in Israel: they've married.

Ignoring their families' outrage and the violence between their people, Zaki Al Amoudi, 25 and Nurit Yehuda, 24, signed a marriage contract on a parked car in front of Nurit's aunt's apartment last year.

Since then, Nurit has been abducted by her orthodox Jewish family several times, sent away to the United States once, and the couple's baby daughter has been kidnapped by Jewish extremists.

Only intervention by Israeli police and the US FBI united the two lovers and their daughter. A restraining order banning Nurit's family from approaching the couple's home has given the Palestinian Romeo and Israeli Juliet a semblance of quiet.

Zaki, a short, husky man with curly hair, said his story of love conquering hate should be a message to the Israeli and Palestinian people.

"My daughter was born in the middle of a war," said Zaki, sitting in his small, suburban apartment near Tel Aviv. "It shows how much we needed real peace."

Zaki and Nurit, who say they are non-believers in their respective religions, met four years ago when the two of them worked at a chocolate factory near Tel Aviv.

"I invited her for a cup of coffee, but she refused," Zaki said, laughing. He pursued the shy Nurit and after two months she agreed to secretly meet him after work in a public park.

For more than a year the two met clandestinely until Nurit's parents discovered that their daughter was secretly seeing a Palestinian from work.

Nurit said when she returned from a meeting with Zaki, "my mother began shouting at me and Moshe (her elder brother) slapped me in the face and shouted 'from tomorrow on, you're not going to work'."

Zaki said when his family found out about his Jewish girlfriend, they barged into his apartment. "They wanted to break my legs and take me home," he said.

Nurit's family forced her to quit her factory job, but the two managed to meet secretly for two more years.

Then "we got the idea that if she was pregnant, her family would have to accept us," Zaki said. "But things became even worse."

When Nurit's parents found out she was pregnant, they took her and hid her in her aunt's home north of Tel Aviv. Zaki found her and rushed to the house with a marriage contract, which the lovers signed on the hood of a parked car.

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ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, one room for one working lady to share with an Indian family, bus routes 21, 22, 34. Rent KD55. Tele. 4744345, 3-9pm. (AT5-48137-3)

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WOODEN sofa set, single bedroom set, TV, VCR, stereo deck, hostess trolley, gas oven, Hilti drill M/C's and many more. Tele. 4897323 after 2pm. (AT5-48134-3)

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CADILLAC Seville, 1979, 350 engine, automatic, newly overhauled, AC, sunroof, insured up to March 1990, in excellent condition. KD700. Tele. Mr. Nazir Ahmed, 4348506, 1.30-3pm, 8.30-11pm. (AT4-48100-2)

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"Cor Ellen was delightful man; he wanted to talk, I wanted to take pictures — and the light was going fast. He borrowed a bike for me and we rode down to the dike; I just wanted dike and sea. His old grocer's bike had to be in the picture too, it was so much part of him. We had trouble propping it up; if you look carefully you can see a twig holding it. The light was fading, it was that critical moment, minutes later it had gone. There was no time to put up a tripod; I uprated the film, losing a bit of quality, but I wanted to use that wonderful light."

Right angle for the daring

By Philip Dunn

PEOPLE are, to my mind, the most fascinating subjects, and it surprises me that so many amateur photographers completely ignore this source of picture material when they take

their cameras on holiday.

Perhaps it is a natural reluctance to approach strangers combined with a fear that they will be told where to get off.

Rebuffs are rare, though, if the approach is right, and holiday photography can take on a new

dimension if you abandon the idea that every picture must have Auntie Lil staring at the camera from the edge of the frame. "And that's Lil in the Sahara Desert, of course you can't see the hotel in this one, it's just off the left somewhere."

There is nothing wrong with photographing Lil on the sand dunes but a picture of a passing bedouin might convey more of the feeling of the place. If you really are nervous about asking strangers to pose, you might try your hand at candid photog-

To capture the flavour and atmosphere of a place on film takes a special eye and special timing. Photographer PHILIP DUNN describes how he took this picture of the beachcomber of Texel — a favourite from the pictures he has taken and suggests how to put people in the picture.

phy. In some countries this could be regarded as a form of snooping, so be prepared to hold up your hands if you are caught trying to photograph a reluctant model.

Enjoyment and good results usually go hand in hand; and it is not necessary to spend a fortune on equipment to achieve both. The simplest of cameras can produce exciting and evocative images.

Simple

But it is not always that simple. Far from home, perhaps in an exotic location, it can be all too easy to base your impressions of a place on the fragrant smells, the sound of the rippling surf, or the caress of a tropical breeze. None of these things photograph well — no matter what sort of camera you are using. Enjoy those romantic aromas and sounds to the full, but when you put the camera up to your eye, think visually and be disciplined by the viewfinder. Consider the scene in front of you, ask yourself what it is about the subject that caught your eye and think how you can isolate its most appealing qualities.

It might be simply a question of framing (this is where zoom lenses score) or some small adjustment in viewing position to exclude unwanted clutter. Avoid

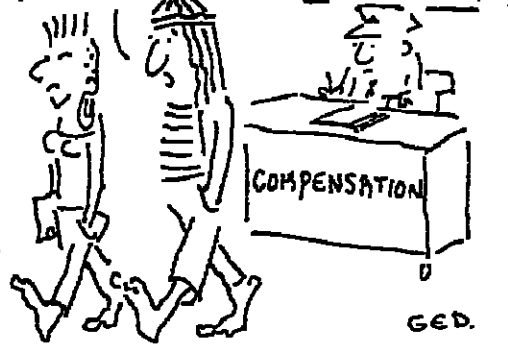
busy pictures until you gain experience.

Imaginative use of light is the hallmark of good photographers. They can paint images on film with it, creating texture and mood. Try to time your photo sessions for early morning and late afternoon when the light will give a slightly warmer colour and you will avoid the unflattering midday sun. The Massi tribesmen I travelled with in Kenya used to wake me before dawn; breakfast cuppa in one hand, my camera bag in the other. "Wake up, Camera Bwana," they would say. "Time to use your eyes very soon."

While you are thinking about the use of light, you might as well forget the old adage that you should always have the sun behind the camera. Be daring, and try shooting into the sun occasionally, you will have a few failures, but will also get lots of pleasant surprises. The more you learn to see, the more you'll get from your photography and your holiday. So, "use your eyes very soon."

Philip Dunn is the author of *A Practical Guide to Travel Photography*, Oxford Illustrated Press, £14.95. His new book, *Press Photography*, also Oxford Illustrated Press, £14.95, was published recently.

He's just scored
a kilo of stuff
for £13, man!



Lost but not forgotten

When a suitcase is missing, it does not mean that it has gone forever — but it may not be worth what you thought!

By Terry Doyle

THERE are certain words and phrases — such as safety — which all airlines shy away from because they detract from a carefully marketed facade of infallibility. "Lost luggage" is one of these.

Not only is it embarrassing for carriers to admit that bags are lost, but there are fears, probably justified, that discussions about compensation will only encourage ambitious claims, even fraud.

But the industry's silence is one more burden for the traveller who stands beside an airport carousel, willing a suitcase into view, and gradually realizing that this time luck has run out. The crowd thins. The overhead notice on a voyage of their own.

Luggage travels a dangerous route between check-in and the carousel at your terminus.

respond to each loss on its merits. If there is real hardship, some essentials may be provided, but the principle is that most travellers should be able to get alone quite well for a day or two without luggage.

Even after three or four days there is reason to hope. Ryan, a baggage performance manager at British Airways, says, "At this point airlines will move from primary tracing by tag numbers to secondary tracing on the basis of luggage contents. Too often luggage tags have come off or bags bear no identification. A passenger might recognize his own bag at a glance but if strangers are looking for it in a sea of similar untagged bags in Bolivia or Peking, the process takes time."

After several weeks and the failure of secondary tracing most airlines will admit the worst. However, passengers

Luggage travels a dangerous route between check-in and the carousel at your terminus. If transfers are involved, opportunities for "mishandling" are terrifying

If transfer are involved, opportunities for "mishandling" are terrifying. Not all "losses" lead to claims. Often an hour goes by, but it turns out that the bags have simply been delayed on the aircraft or sent to the wrong carousel.

If the bag hasn't been stolen, it has to be in the system somewhere; computers have brought admirable speed to the task of matching tag numbers to reports of unclaimed goods around the world. As a result, about 95 per cent of all bags reported missing are recovered, often within a few hours.

Consequently, airlines are seldom generous with immediate financial support. Most airlines say that they will

are invariably at the mercy of the ominous-sounding Warsaw Convention. This sets strict limits on the airlines' liability for compensation according to weight — just like apples and oranges, so much per kilo. No matter that you packed your finest suits, your brace of Rolex watches — all luggage has the same value — currently a modest £13.63 per kilo.

Anyone who has taken out specific baggage insurance may gain greater satisfaction. Otherwise the best deal seems to go to travellers who carry bricks. As for your anonymous case and the items in it, they will undoubtedly already be on their way to auction.

Travel tips

If you're motoring ...

Your method of transportation does, to a certain extent, determine your style of travel and destination.

A car is not necessarily the cheapest method, but it is the most flexible, permitting you to explore at will, spending as much or as little time as you wish in any given place.

If you decide to travel by car, the following pointers will be helpful.

Safety First

1. Have your car thoroughly inspected before you leave; check lights, brakes, tires (including spare), windshield wipers, battery, fan belt, oil, transmission fluid, lubrication, wheel bearings, seat belts.
2. Avoid eyestrain — keep your windshield clear and take along sunglasses.
3. Don't drive too long at a stretch; if you feel tired, stop; take a short walk, have a soft drink or cup of coffee, take a nap.
4. Follow others cars at a safe distance, signal for all turns.
5. Hold down your speed to on open highways; it will keep you from getting overtired.
6. Don't back up on expressways; better to go on to the next exit and return.
7. Slow down after leaving expressways — speed limits on local roads are usually much lower.
8. Don't obstruct your rear vision with clothes hanging across rear seat; give yourself a clear view of following traffic.
9. Don't plan to drive after a heavy meal — it generally makes you sleepy.

Save on gasoline

1. Eliminate unnecessary driving — study road maps carefully before you get there.
2. Avoid slowdowns created by rush hour traffic.
3. Operate your car's air conditioner only when necessary.
4. If you are visiting a city, leave your car in the hotel or motel parking lot; you can see the city less expensively by taking public transportation.

Checklist of things to take

1. Driver's license.
2. Automobile registration.
3. Proof of insurance.
4. Gasoline credit cards.
5. Flashlight and batteries.
6. First aid kit.
7. Emergency flasher.
8. Extra car keys.
9. Little bag.
10. Sunglasses.

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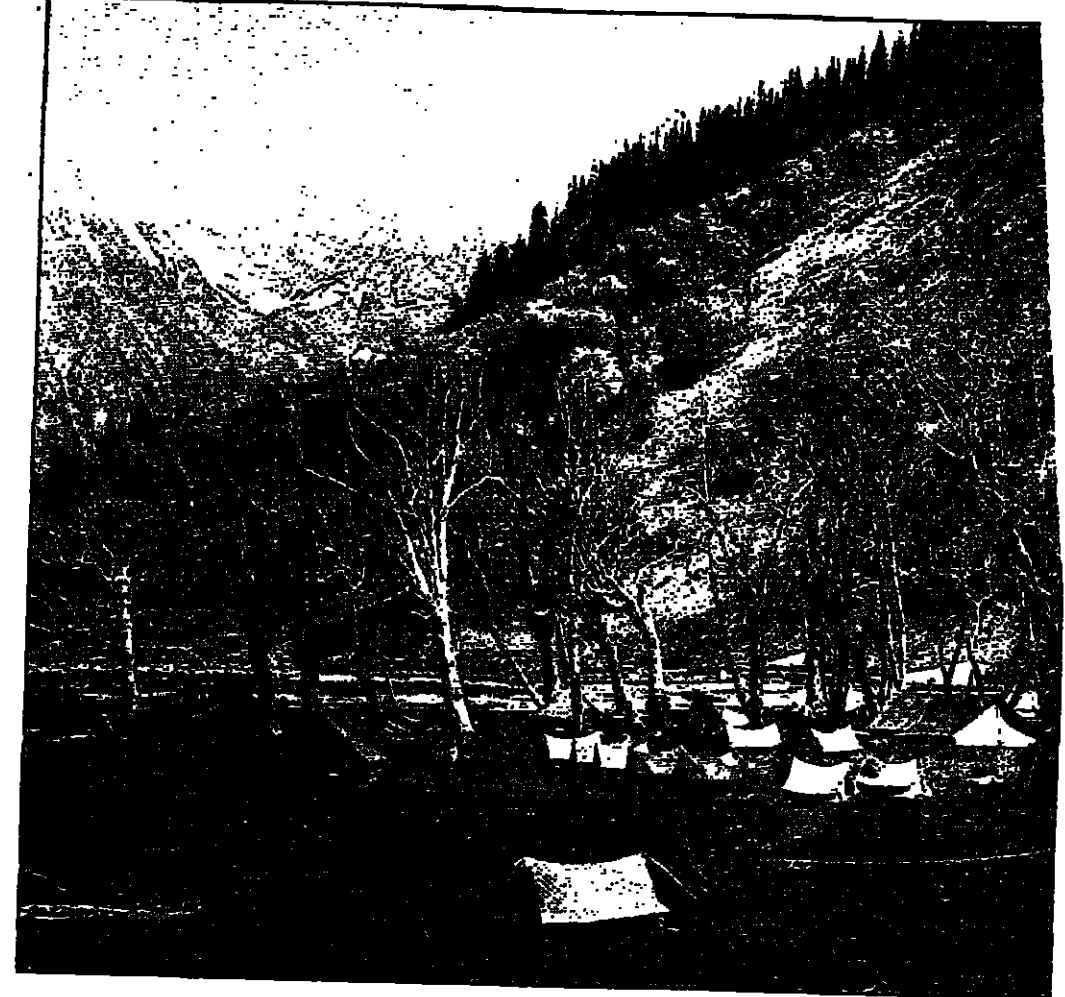
Kashmir offers a variety of activities, seasons and views



There's skiing in winter, and in summer boat rides on a 'Shikara' on Srinagar's Dal Lake.



A boatman transports his cargo of flowers (above) and (right) camping in the mountains is a popular activity.



Honeymooner's paradise

By Shriti Nath
Photographs: Rupinder Khullar

"IF HE is an artist there is work for his brush at every turn. There is no day in the year on which the sportsman will not be able to amuse himself. The botanist has ranges of upland hillsides which are studded with scores of varieties of wild flowers. This is how an English travel writer described Kashmir. Written in the thirties, this description still holds true. What he forgot to mention is that Kashmir is also a paradise for honeymooners. Rising in several tiers from the plains in the south to the high altitude valleys and peaks in the north, Kashmir encloses some of the loftiest inhabited hamlets in the world. On all sides, the valley is guarded by the Himalayas and the snow-fed river Jhelum, known in the valley as Vitasta, gently meanders through it and is its very life.

Situated in the centre of the valley, on the banks of the river Jhelum, is Srinagar, one of the most ancient cities of India founded by Ashoka

2,260 years ago. The famous Dal lake is at the edge of the city. The mountains in the background are reflected in its still waters and it is encircled by trees like poplars, willows and ancient chinar trees planted by the Mughal Emperor, Akbar more than half a millennium ago. The chinar (walnut) leaf is the symbol of Kashmir.

During spring the warm south wind blows through the trees and sweeps away the snow and the sun coaxes out the flowers. Mountains and meadows are covered with vivid colours and delicate pastel shades. Strawberries, almonds, walnuts, peaches, apples and cherries are all in bloom. The whole valley is a beautiful natural garden. It is certainly a paradise and the best time for lovers. It is also the time for a novel experience — life in a houseboat and a leisurely voyage along the river in a shikara (gondola). Houseboats are moored on the banks of the Jhelum and the Dal and Nagin lakes. They are made of fragrant deodar wood. Most of them are comfortably furnished with carpets, walnut furniture and provide all modern amenities.

There are usually two bedrooms with attached bathrooms, a sitting room, a dining room with a pantry and a sun deck. A kitchen boat is attached which also serves as staff quarters. Every houseboat has a paddle boat for crossing the lake.

As there are more miles of water than roads in Srinagar, a shikara is the best way to travel. All one needs for a day's tour is a crew of two rowers and a guide. In a shikara with its gay canopies, fluttering curtains and soft cushions, one can drift slowly and comfortably down the lake past the unique floating gardens to visit the splendid pleasure gardens of the Mughal emperors.

"If I visit this place now, I shall not be allowed to visit paradise thereafter" said saint Mir-ud-din while refusing to enter a royal garden. These terraced gardens with their scented flower-beds, cascading waterfalls, fountains and pavilions have very appropriately descriptive names: Naseem Bagh, the garden of the morning breeze, Shalimar Bagh, garden of love, Nisat Bagh, garden of

pleasure and the garden of Chashma Shahi — the royal springs. You can also see Pari Mahal, the ruins of an enchanting castle that whispers fairy magic. A visit there is a must. You can drive up by car and ramble through the charming gardens and over rough stones. From there one gets a magnificent view of the entire city.

Active

For the more active and adventurous couple there are facilities for speedboating and water-skiing on the lake.

Summer in the valley means long walks among the shady chinar and silvery poplars or lazy languorous days beside cool bubbling springs. Sunset is the most beautiful time of the day and the best place to be is at the boulevard along the waterfront. As the sun casts long golden beams across the lake, everything glows in the twilight and as darkness descends, the houseboats light up and shimmer in the water and with every gentle breeze the scent of wood smoke wafts through the air.

Further up, 96 kilometres east of Srinagar past fields of golden saffron, at a height of

Rising in several tiers from the plains in the south to the high altitude valleys and peaks in the north, Kashmir encloses some of the loftiest inhabited hamlets in the world. On all sides this valley is guarded by the Himalayas and the snow-fed river Jhelum gently meanders through it and is its very life

240 metres is Pahalgam, a shepherd's hamlet. Spread along the banks of the river Lidder, it is an angler's paradise as the spring and snow-fed rivers are ideal for trout. This is also the place for exciting treks into the pine and fir-clad mountains — haunts of the Himalayan bears! There are many cosy hotels and log huts for honeymooners. Peddlars come down from the mountains to sell trinkets and aphrodisiacs like kasturi (musk), and shilajeet (mineral rock-oozings).

A day in Pahalgam starts with waking up at dawn and taking a pony ride up into the lonely mountains with the fresh morning breeze rustling through the pines and firs. When the sun starts climbing over the lofty cliffs and the village below lies in the full glow of the sun, it is time to return to a hearty breakfast. You can pass the rest of the day fishing or trekking or just wandering over the alpine meadows and pastures. You can discover new and indescribable pleasures paddling in cool streams or by just watching the goats and sheep nibbling at the sweet grass, some gambolling together happily or butting playfully.

During this season there are also other places of interest for pilgrims, archaeologists and wildlife enthusiasts. High up in the snows at 3,962 metres, 46 kilometres from Pahalgam, is the Amarnath cave. Inside is a natural ice lingam (symbol of Lord Shiva) which waxes and wanes with the moon. In August thousands of pilgrims are drawn to this temple and Pahalgam is the base camp for the arduous 5-day trek up to the cave.

Abilaze In autumn the valley is ablaze with shades of russet, bronze and copper. Climatically, this is the most pleasant time of the year in Kashmir. Chinar leaves swirl across the valley heralding the approach of winter. It is harvest time and also the time to be in Gulmarg, the meadow of flowers. Just 51 kilometres from Srinagar, it is possible to travel up on horseback. At an altitude of 2,730 metres, Gulmarg has the world's highest golf course and a good skirun. The golfing season is from June to September. In winter Gulmarg is a leading skiing resort. The equipment and facilities available for winter sports are comparable with international standards.

Besides many luxurious hotels there is a 25 room centrally heated tourist bungalow and log huts.

Landlocked, flanked by mountains and ringed by tall pines and firs this is also a place of quiet solitude. After a strenuous day the long winter evenings are idyllic. Before blazing fires or heaters, quietly sipping fragrant Kashmiri green tea called kahva you can listen to the soothing and sighing of the trees and the distant tinkling of bells of the baggage ponies on their way home.

Khilanmarg is a 40 minute uphill walk from Gulmarg. A pony ride up can also be arranged at a fixed rate. From there you get a magnificent view of Nanga Parbat, one of the highest mountains in the world at 8,137 metres.

With such a variety of activities, seasons and views, a holiday in Kashmir is one way of making your honeymoon a memorable one.

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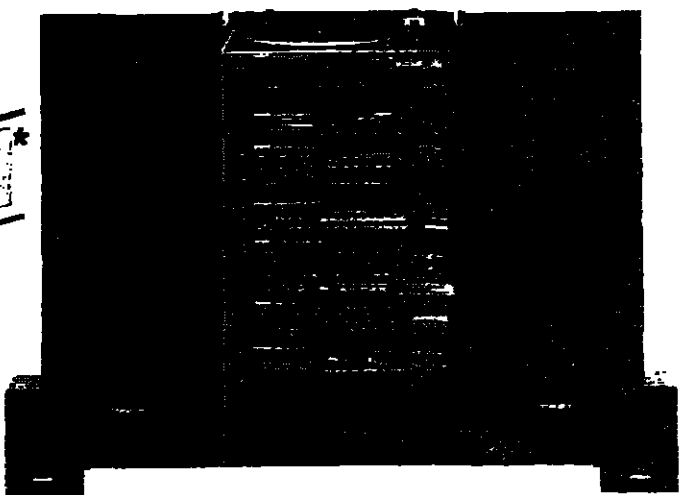
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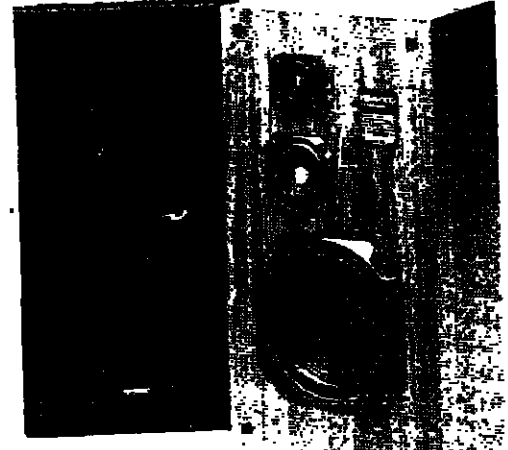
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WE all know what we expect from flying — the minimum of irritation. That means good service, from a friendly booking agent to a smooth, safe and comfortable flight. Nor do we want to play Russian Roulette with our luggage on arrival. The responsibility for all this lies with other people — the airline, the travel agent, the luggage handlers.

But there is something the individual can do to improve the situation. It's up to you to remain healthy in the flying environment, and you can do it, with a modicum of common sense.

Prepare for your flight by having all valid vaccinations well ahead of your date of travel — at least three weeks. Diseases are constantly changing in some countries, get current information on possible epidemics by calling your airline.

Even if you've had a recent vaccination, check that it's still effective, for example a cholera vaccine only lasts six months and you may need a booster.

Wear the right clothes for the journey and the country you're going to. Harris tweeds look great on the Scottish moors but a

Guide-lines for healthy flying

little silly in India. Light loosely-fitting clothing should be worn on the plane.

This is because the pressurised cabin will expand the gas in your abdomen, ears and sinuses expand slightly. Loose clothing will allow for expansion and you'll remain comfortable. Avoid drinking carbonated drinks before the flight, they'll only increase the gas expansion.

When you're on the aircraft, take off your shoes, loosen clothing and stretch your legs.

Allow an hour in hand for getting to the airport to avoid panic. If you suffer from air sickness take pills half an hour before departure. When the boarding announcement is made, don't rush-off at the rate of knots.

Take your time and remain calm, your seat is booked and there's nothing to be gained by

hurrying. Keep in mind that there are more heart attacks in the airport building than on the aircraft.

The lowering of the barometric pressure means the partial pressure of oxygen in the cabin drops and the air you breathe has a slight oxygen lack.

This has no adverse effect on a fit person, but the elderly or infirm may notice a slight breathlessness. This problem is easily solved by telling your hostess who will supply you with a little supplementary oxygen.

Food should be taken in moderation and you should try to eat nearest your own home meal times. A large meal at four in the morning will not be digested properly. Get up and walk after meals to avoid swelling ankles.

Try and walk around at

regular intervals to keep your circulation going.

Old people should take special care to do this. A London doctor recently discovered that old ladies who somehow manage to remain seated on a 15-hour flight from Australia to London suffered thrombosis of the lower legs.

This caused a fatal pulmonary embolism when they finally got moving in the arrival lounge. He recorded 12 cases at Heathrow Airport over the last few years.

The cabin atmosphere is very dry with low humidity and as the flight progresses will get dryer. The body loses large quantities of fluid via the lungs and skin so it's important to restore the balance by drinking lots of water or fruit juices.

You need to drink three or four pints for every six hours flying. Drinking tea or coffee is not good enough, they just encourage your kidneys to get rid of more fluid.

If you're crossing time zones, it's a good idea to try and catch up on sleep during the flight. Circadian rhythms are the rhythmic changes your body goes through every 24 hours, with the peak of

activity occurring at 2 pm.

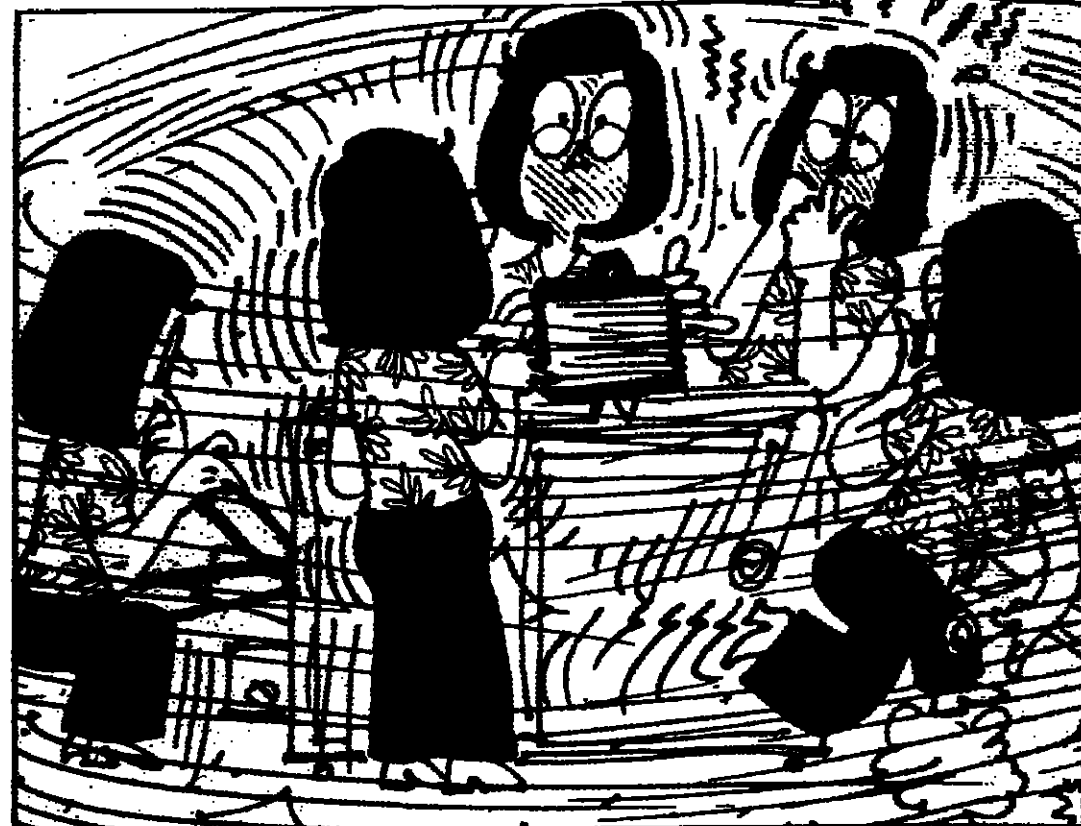
On a North/South flight, from London to Cape Town for example, the circadian rhythms are not disrupted, but on an East/West flight with its changes in time zones, circadian disrhythm occurs.

On such a flight (eg: Bahrain to London) it's best to time your arrival for early evening, have a light meal, take a sleeping pill and go to bed.

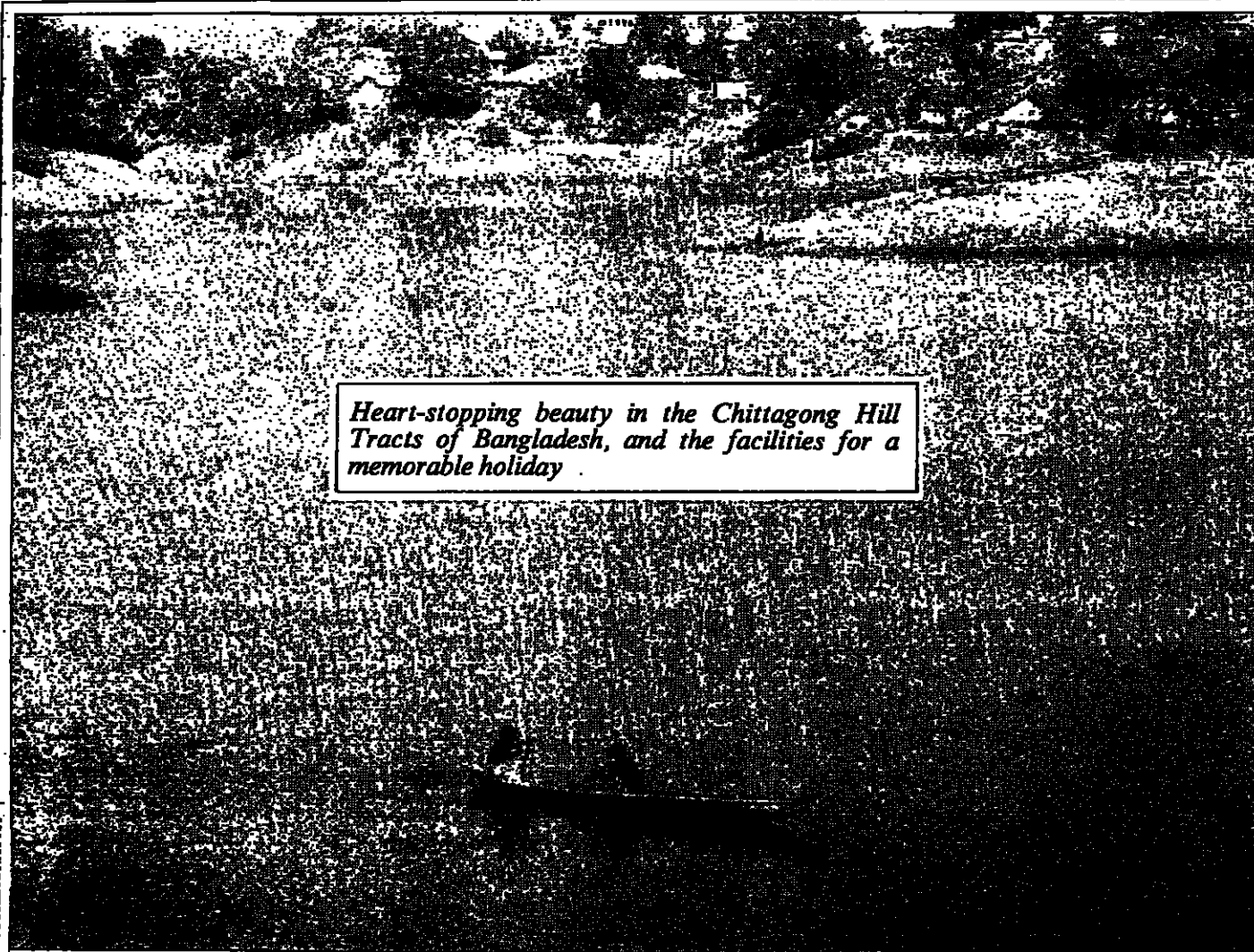
It takes from five to nine days for your circadian rhythm to fully re-adjust to a new timescale. You can't speed the process, but it may help to use sleeping pills for the first few nights.

Smoking during flight increases fatigue, so try to avoid it. Taking care of yourself extends to arrival. Be aware of local hazards and take sensible precautions. In a country where malaria is prevalent, cover up at night when the mosquito is active and avoid eating unwashed fruits or drinking suspect water.

If you return home and become ill, tell your doctor you've been overseas. This is very important. Malaria looks like flu in its early stages, but can kill you in a few days if it goes undetected.



When the boarding announcement is made, don't rush off at a rate of knots



Heart-stopping beauty in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, and the facilities for a memorable holiday

Boating on the placid waters of Kaptai Lake

Rangamati beckons

By Mun Mun Ahmad

NO amount of praise really prepares one for the exquisite, heart stopping beauty of Rangamati. Probably because one does not anticipate such virgin unspoilt territory, tucked away behind the hills of the bustling, mundane city of Chittagong. The reality far transcends expectations.

Tourism in Bangladesh is a relatively novel concept and the hitherto unexploited Chittagong Hill Tracts, of which Rangamati is a part, remained closed to the outside world, effectively isolated by the natural barriers. But now the region's inaccessibility is easily conquered by modern transport methods. Biman Bangladesh Airlines has two daily flights to Chittagong from the capital city of Dhaka and from there Parjatan Corporation or National

Tourism Corporation takes over, efficiently planning and arranging tours for visitors.

Rangamati is situated in the heart of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, about 50 miles away from the port city of Chittagong and is located on the western bank of the famous Kaptai Lake — it's crystal clear waters stretching all of 265 square miles, making it the longest man-made lake. A cruise on the shimmering blue waters is indeed an experience with the backdrop of the lush green foliage and grey hills, weathered with time.

For nature lovers, Rangamati is a virtual paradise of flora and fauna. Leopards, sambar, tigers, bears, deer and elephants are still widely found throughout the Hill Tracts. Our feathered friends also make their presence felt in large numbers.

For tourists who have a strenuous holiday in mind, the country offers some excellent trekking in the hills, with the added attraction of truly magnificent mountain vistas. But if like me, you have neither the time nor inclination for making lengthy journeys on foot, there is fishing under the shade of the evergreen trees, swimming in the placid waters of the quiet little inlets, speed boat cruising, canoeing, water-skiing — or if you find all these too demanding in the way of physical exercise just sit back and soak in the sun drenched atmosphere. A quality of timelessness pervades Rangamati — as if time had passed her by. This impression is strengthened by encounters with the tribal people who inhabit the region and whose origins are lost in the mists of antiquity.

The natives of Rangamati are the Tipras or Tripuras and the Chakmas. Until recently these tribes were virtually unaffected by civilization and were in comparative isolation, each having their own customs and traditions, arts and crafts and way of life.

There are various theories regarding the origin of the Tipras but the one commonly believed to be true is that in ancient times Tipras of the Chittagong Hill Tracts lived in Hill Tippera. This was under a Hindu sovereign belonging to the kshatriya or warrior caste. Though apparently Hindu, the Tipras demonstrate some major differences from caste Hindus. In appearance and physical structure they are doubtless Mongoloid. To modern practical minds some of their habits and superstitions may seem exotic and improbable. The Tipras

have a curious way of ascertaining the future happiness of a newly married couple. The Ojha or medium holds a bamboo leaf and jackfruit leaf between the fingers of one hand and tosses them on the ground. If both the leaves fall flat it means that the couple will enjoy a very happy life. If however the position of the leaves is reverse, it portends conjugal incompatibility and unhappiness.

It is extremely interesting to see how a child's career is determined. An aptitude test did you say? Certainly not! It is just a simple lottery. A brass eating-bowl containing gold, silver, paddy, dried rice, 'durba' grass etc is brought before the child who is expected to lay his hand on any of the ingredients in the bowl. His career will be determined according to the item he happens to touch first. The Tipras are patriarchal and consequently women enjoy almost no rights.

If you happen to go on Kaptai Lake with a local, at a certain spot he will point out and explain that the old palace which was probably no more than a huge warren of rooms, belonging to the Chakma Kings, lies buried beneath several million cubic feet of water. When the government decided on the construction of the Karnaphuli Dam, amongst thousands of other homesteads the King's palace was a hapless victim.

Obviously one's imagination takes on wings, after hearing such a romantic tale. The present king, Raja Tridib Roy, claims descent from Raja Bijoygiri whose reign can safely be said to go back much earlier than 118 A.D. — this being the date when we first come to hear about the Chakmas. Though there is much speculation and debate on the genesis and evolution of the Chakmas, undoubtedly they were inhabitants of Arakan and its Hill Tracts in Burma.

Legend has it that the reigning King of Champaganagar had two sons and the elder son was sent to wage war. On attaining victory he heard that his father had died and his brother had usurped the throne. Whereupon he decided to remain in the hilly country he had conquered. It is said the name Chakma has been derived from Champa. The Chakmas claim themselves to be descendants of this Kshatriya clan.

Although the Chakmas are basically Buddhists, they bear

a distinct Muslim influence in their social norms and conventions. In their religious rites they have a close resemblance to Hinduism.

For their livelihood they depend entirely on jhum cultivation and both men and women work in the fields. Their houses are built entirely of bamboo. Their dresses are simple but colourful and they do their own weaving. They have a fondness for wine which they brew in large quantities. For them a "dry day" is anathema. Crime is very rare among the Chakmas.

The tribal literature is considerably rich in ballads, folk tales, legends and so on. Most of the songs are arranged during religious festivities or to celebrate the seasons. The songs accompany dances in most cases. The dances are exotic, colourful and rhythmic. The costumes of the performers are made from the brilliantly coloured cloth that they weave and their marvellous silver jewellery and accessories are fashioned by cunning hands. The 'Thala' or plate dance and the Bamboo Dance are performed on festive occasions while the Bottle Dance is performed at wedding celebrations.

For tourists the opportunities for shopping are endless, with a wide variety of curios, home spun textiles, bamboo hand bags and silver jewellery. The tribal handicraft centre produces many varieties of souvenirs made of bamboo cane thread. Parjatan Corporation has quite a big, comfortable motel situated right in the middle of this arcadia. There are comfortable, tastefully decorated air-conditioned rooms. For connoisseurs of sea-food the choice is varied. Parjatan arranges group or individual tours.

Amongst the tribals to express oneself directly, especially in love, is considered vulgar, so all desires and requests are couched in symbolism. When a Tipra parents wants to propose to a prospective bride's father for his son, he says, "There is a breezy tree in your house, we want to take rest under its umbrella." In the same obscure, soft, tantalising manner, the green hills of Rangamati beckon you to come and experience life in its sylvan valleys and dales.

Bangladesh's Biman Airlines flies once weekly from Kuwait to Dhaka, from where easy connections are available for Chittagong. Rangamati is approximately a 2-hour drive from Chittagong.

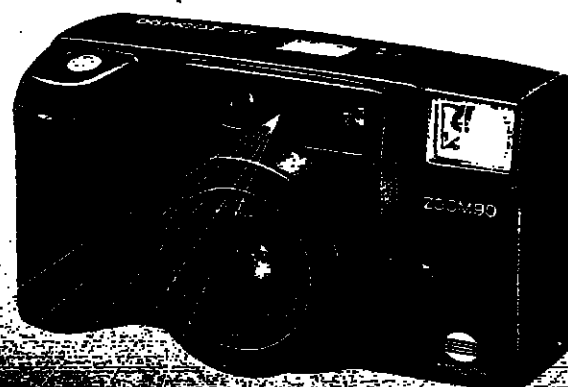


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Water, water everywhere — but not every drop is safe. This woman was selling it in Burma.

A short guide to a healthy holiday

Tips on do-it-yourself doctoring abroad

HOLIDAYS abroad are meant to be carefree and relaxing. But we all know how that exotic dream trip or just a weekend break can turn out to be a bit of a sick joke.

Green faces on the ferry or agonising ears on the flight may be no more than a prelude to a trail of potential health horrors at your destination — from sunburn to squitters, or from heat-stroke to hepatitis. And wherever you go, there's always the risk of an accident. Of course, your stay abroad may be totally trouble-free — and we sincerely hope it is. But the flipside of frolicking in the tropics, subtropics or even the Mediterranean is that the heat and food may carry all sorts of extra health risks.

Nevertheless, you can do a lot to keep yourself and your family out of trouble. So here's a short guide to a healthy holiday.

Precautionary measures

Okay, you've already scoured the brochures, made the booking, bought some clothes, and

lost at least some of the weight. Now's the time to plan for your health. Start by finding the answers to a few basic questions:

1. Are there any special health risks in the place you're planning to visit?

We're thinking here of diseases like malaria, cholera and typhoid, which you can help to avoid by taking special precautions.

If you're going anywhere outside Europe, North America or Australia/New Zealand, such diseases may be endemic. So check this out in plenty of time — preferably at least six weeks before you leave, because, if you need vaccinations, the course may take that long.

2. Will you and your family need to have any jabs?

For many tropical and subtropical countries, it's advisable to have certain vaccinations. For a few countries, mainly in Central Africa, some types of vaccination are essential, and you'll have to show a certificate in order to be allowed in. Your travel



The temptation to eat from the roadside stalls is enormous, but be careful especially when travelling with children.

agent should know about these.

3. What about guarding against malaria?

Malaria is the biggest health

hazard for travellers to the tropics. Unfortunately, there's no vaccine yet and you may need to take daily anti-malaria tablets.

A doctor can advise on which tablets to have and how to get them.

4. Will you need to take an extra supply of your usual medication?

If you're on regular medication make sure you've got enough to see you through your holiday. But this will depend on what you're on and where you're going. In any event, it's always sensible for anyone on regular prescribed medicines to carry a doctor's letter detailing their prescription when they go abroad.

5. Are you covered for medical expenses?

Many holidays have been ruined by having to find money to pay emergency bills — or the cost of getting the ill or injured person home. So make sure you've done all the paperwork beforehand to either get any exemption you're entitled to, or insurance cover.

It's essential to take out adequate health insurance. This can usually be combined with general travel insurance. Ask your travel agent for details.

Your health pack

If you've ever tried asking for aspirin in Serbo-Croat, you'll see the sense in taking them with you. Precisely what you pack depends on where you're going and how you're getting there. But here are a few items to help you out of most scrapes.

□ A painkiller — for adults, some soluble aspirin or paracetamol tablets; for children, paracetamol syrup. For headaches, toothache, muscular pains, sunburn and bringing down fevers.

□ Antihistamine tablets or syrup — to prevent travel sickness, soothe insect bites, sunburn and allergies, and to help restless children sleep.

□ Anti-diarrhoea tablets — can help make life bearable while you wait for the bug to pass. For children, a few sachets of oral replacement fluid powder.

□ Antiseptic cream — for cuts, grazes and sore bits.

□ Insect repellent creams — a small tube of DEET or similar.

□ A sunscreen cream — to filter out harmful UVB rays.

□ Adhesive dressings.

□ Tweezers — for removing splinters.

Keeping shakes and quakes away

By Jack Barker

NEVER drink the water, never put ice into drinks, never eat uncooked food or cooked dishes that have been left uncovered, never over do the sun for the first few days — all these are sensible health precautions of the average holidaymaker in popular resort areas. But in some places, especially remoter ones, greater care is needed.

● Bad water and ice made from it is one of the most common causes of illness abroad. Suspects supplies should be boiled or treated with sterilising tablets such as Puritabs. Alternatively, four drops of 2 per cent tincture of iodine or 2/4 drops of household bleach will, if left for 15 minutes, treat a litre of water. However, dirt particles can allow germs to survive chemical purifying, so it must look clean in the first place. The odd viral infection can even slip through stan-

dard water filters.

● Bad food: Big Brother of the salmonella family, typhoid still lurks in badly-cooked chickens around the world. Salads, pre-cooked meats and pre-peeled fruits are known danger points on many menus, but it is often a matter of where rather than what you eat. It is usually worth paying extra for a cleaner restaurant, though a fresh hot snack from a street vendor might be safer than a cooling reheated curry.

● AIDS: is the latest addition to the risk list, caught, like hepatitis B, from blood. It does not take full scale hospitalisation and blood transfusions to become infected: even syringes or the modest needle used to stitch minor wound can be contaminated.

● Malaria: still claims victims. Tablets can protect completely and people who mistrust pills should consider the results of catching malaria, which is endemic

in many areas and often fatal. One way to reduce the risk is to deter mosquitoes. Repellents applied to the skin are effective only for a short time but clothes rinsed in DEET — the active ingredient of most repellents — can continue to deter insects for days.

Mosquito nets soaked in an insecticide, such as Promethrin, will give the insects a fatal dose as they bump against it.

● Rabies is invariably fatal if the symptoms are allowed to develop. It is not just caught from dogs: monkeys, bats, and any other mammal can transmit it. If bitten or licked by a potentially infected animal, getting immunised is to top priority. Pre-immunisation provides only partial protection. The disease is not so rare: in India it kills 50,000 a year.

● Ticks are small bloodsucking parasites that in central Europe can carry tick-borne encephalitis. Austria alone has 4,500 cases every year of this serious illness, although a vaccine is available. Do not try to remove ticks by pulling: their heads remain embedded. Trying to burn them off can cause serious burns; better to apply a dab of nail polish, which causes them to fall off.

● Snakebite victims who die usually do so because of shock. Even venomous snakes inject venom only 50 per cent of the time. Improperly applied tourniquets can lead to the loss of the affected limb and cutting the bite and sucking out the poison can cause instant death to people with mouth ulcers. The only medical treatment for snakebite is to inject the appropriate serum intravenously. To get the patient to hospital, the best method is to apply pressure bandages, which are tied tightly over the bite itself, and immobilise the affected limb with splints.

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Avoid those tummy upsets

JUST about the commonest health problem on a holiday abroad is the traditional traveller's diarrhoea.

The hotter and poorer the place, the greater the risk of picking up a bug from the food and drink.

Most resorts around the north-west coastline of the Mediterranean now have reasonably high standards of drinking water and sanitation.

But the same isn't so true of the eastern or southern Med, nor of a whole lot of sub-tropical and tropical places.

Avoiding these gastro-intestinal infections is easier said than done, you've got to eat and drink, and it's not easy to boil drinking water, refuse ice lollies and inspect the kitchens of local tavernas. So what can you do?

Check the drinkability of the water with the hotel manager or local tourist office. I suggest you also ask among the other guests.

If you're at all doubtful, it's best to stick to the bottled variety — even for brushing your teeth.

Feel fruit before you eat it. Wash grapes in drinkable water.

Eat only at recommended popular restaurants and cafes.

If you're buying cooked food in a market, make sure you get a portion that's only just been cooked.

Local soft cheeses and ice cream are often made with unpasteurised milk, so there's a risk of contamination with such bugs as listeria and salmonella. But the chances of infection in the most popular resorts are pretty low. With ice-cream and lollies, suck to the bigger brands.

It's impossible to predict how safe the shellfish are. All too often they're harvested from areas close to sewage outlets. But if they're well-cooked you'll probably get away without any trouble.

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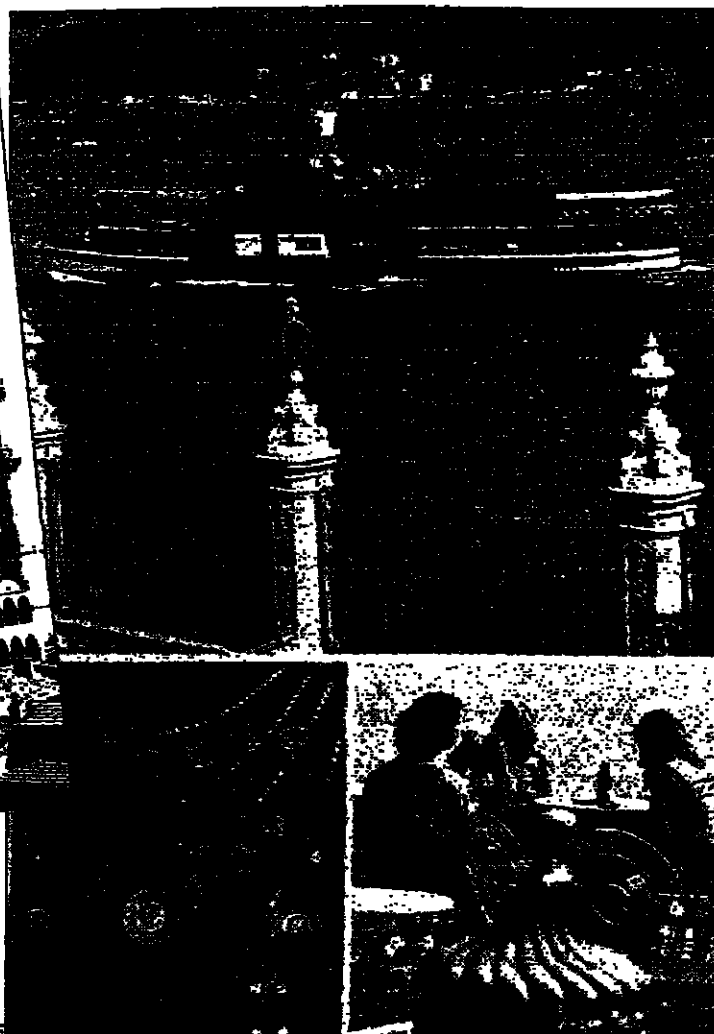


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Clockwise: Istanbul's Blue Mosque — the only one in the world with six minarets; a ferry along the Bosphorus; a seaside cafe; a traditional Turkish necklace and folk dancers



develops a genuine affection for these kind hosts. With an air of dedicated honesty and helpfulness, it is suggested that we might like to see some of the very fine and famous carpets in which the house deals. Helpers, like elves, drag forth great carpets, hand woven, taking months or years, done by hand. It is demonstrated that the carpets are beautiful even on the underside and are, in some cases, reversible. So splendid are they, that we feel privileged to examine them.

What woman leaves Istanbul without the purchase of something in gold? Prices seem far better than elsewhere, and the quality is very fine. Here, again, one is expected to bargain and match wits with these masters of the art of selling. If a store permits you to walk out without any further adjustment in price, you may be sure that the bottom has been reached. Turn around, and give them your money! You will have obtained a bargain.

On one trip I had purchased a small, gold pendant and continued to admire a pin of gold set with turquoise. I said, reluctantly, "I simply don't have enough money." There was only a moment's pause, and the salesman said, "Madame, take it. You will send me the money when you get home." This was not a reckless move nor an impulsive one. Such students of the human condition are these people that this man recognized the innate honesty with which I must operate. From dealing with which I must operate. From dealing with thousands of people this mature man knew to whom he could extend credit.

Other Turkish specialties are the beautifully carved Meershaum pipes from Eskisehir, water pipes are a conversation piece, and the copper and brassware are



Istanbul's covered bazaar attracts bargain hunters from all over the world

excellent buys. Many an extraordinary leather coat has come out of the bazaar.

The outer streets are filled with pushcarts, reminiscent of one time lower east side, New York City. Here the cheaper merchandise, appealing to the people of the city, is offered: socks, underwear, kitchen utensils, fruit and vegetables.

With a full day spent at the bazaar this is one of the sights as well. In spite of the crowds there is no physical danger. It has been said that a rough looking individual who approaches is more likely to give you a compliment or a gift than to beg or rob. Even very small children are engaged in commerce. They sell every commodity known, so that by the time they are adult they have become polished merchants. In fact, the tourist books offered on the streets and around the museums and mosques are far better buys than those sold in bookstores and hotels. I would not go so far as to guarantee the "French perfume" offered in this manner.

Pleasures of the night are not to be slighted. If belly dancing is an art — and it is — it deserves to be seen in a proper setting. The Galata Tower with its 178 corkscrew

steps, with an elevator to cater to the less determined, gave us a dinner and floor show which was a male member of our party that he tucked a twenty dollar bill in the skirt band of the dancing girl who hovered over him. Our dinner was excellent, the regional dancing and music enjoyable, and so disturbed were our hosts when we had to leave early to meet a schedule, that they begged us to return.

My invitation to return was taken seriously. I want to return to Turkey as quickly as possible. The mosaic charms of Istanbul beckon: the special food, the beautiful young men with such exquisite manners, they gently enter my dreams. Then, to cross down to the Dardanelles by ferry, go on to Canakkale and view the Trojan Horse and the ruins of Homer's fame as well as the more recent accounts, of Herman Schliemann. Pergamon is a wonder to be explored, and I must gather strength to spend an entire day in Ephesus, relieving scenes in that wholly remarkable ruined city. I will want to see Cappadocia, the cities of stone, and then my dream is to relax at Bodrum.

It's a good dream. After all, it's a love affair!

Istanbul — a love affair

By Doris Osulky

I AM in love — and it's Istanbul! Each visit engraves more deeply my vision of the golden scene of vari-hued towers and minarets, painted over the Bosphorus.

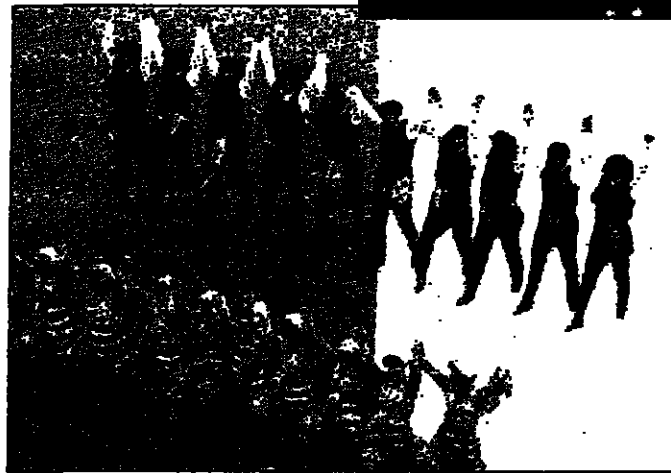
From my room in the hotel, I gazed, entranced, at the sight of the Golden Horn, an inlet of the Bosphorus. Crumbling, commercial buildings on the shore are being torn down, and a beautifully landscaped park is emerging.

The Bosphorus teems with water traffic. All the way to Sarier Village is the view of great historic sites, such as the fancy Dolmabahce Palace. In

the fishing village wonderful fish meals are offered, products of the waters flowing from the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus.

Topkapi Palace is a luminous highlight. The richness of the setting is beyond the grasp of the Western mind. These rooms with thrones and golden tiles, splendid ceramics, sparkling chandeliers tell a true tale.

Masters of selling But, if the palace is huge, tremendous, so is the famous covered bazaar. This emporium of splendid offerings has been in business for 530 years. Even before entering, "outs" who are gifted with the most polished



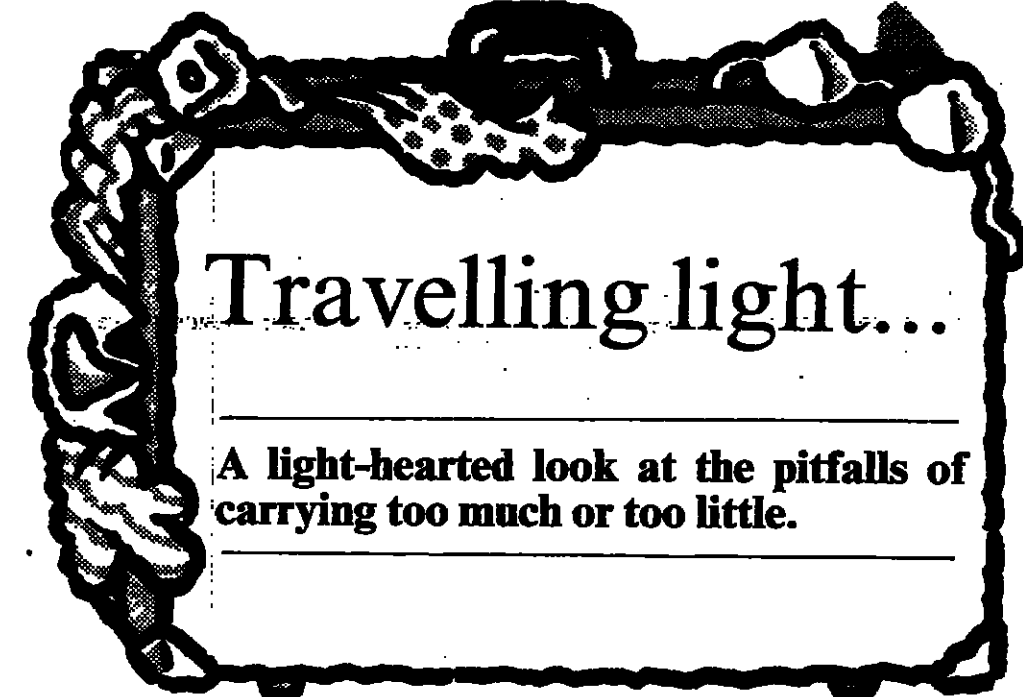
con in the world appear. "You are from Canada? We welcome you. Canadians are such nice people. What city do you come from? I would be happy to escort you in the bazaar and see that you get the best prices. Let me show you a magnificent carpet store where the best merchandise is sold with the lowest costs." Another offers Turkish

Delight, that most delectable candy. "No, too much money? What do you want to pay? I will give you four packages for the price of three. Madame, Turkish Delight — it is delicious!" Truthfully, after I wound up with four boxes, I didn't know what I had paid. I, who pride myself on my bargaining ability, was lost in the morass of rapidly changing

figures. The candy was truly delicious, and I probably got a bargain.

We trusted our guide whom we liked and admired to take us to a carpet store. Again, the approach was one of interest and friendliness. "We are happy to have you here as our guests. We wish to serve you Turkish coffee, or if you wish: tea. Some of you might wish to taste our Turkish liquor, Raki. Please tell us what you most desire."

The atmosphere is so relaxed and pleasant that as the coffee is sipped one



By Christopher Koenig

NOW, have I got everything: my money, my bag, myself? A great aunt of mine used to say that to no one in particular whenever she went anywhere. Had absent-minded old Archimedes done the same he might not have rushed about Syracuse with nothing on, and he might have been less trouble to his wife and sleeves — he frequently forgot about lunch and then demanded it in the middle of the night. But would he have entertained that profound thought about water that caused him to shout "Eureka!"

Some like to travel light through life itself, maintaining that possessions are clutter; the most valuable the more unnecessary: why bother to possess, say, the Mona Lisa, when she can be visited any day of the week in the Louvre?

But be that as it may, on more mundane journeys possessions are burdensome. Always. They fly about the world independently of their owners; they are heavy; they have to be waited for at terminals. Worst of all, unless watched constantly, to the exclusion of all other thought, they vanish. There was the young couple whose honeymoon in Venice ended in divorce; they were foolish enough to glance at the Golden Horses in St Mark's Square instead of staring spell-bound at their suitcases.

Abstract thought and earthly responsibilities go together like chalk and cheese and you do not have to be Archimedes to get the balance wrong.

Talking of cheese, daydreaming in Switzerland recently, I let my thoughts soar about like eagles then down they came with bump: I remembered that I had left my Gruyere, a large lump bought in Gruyere for a high price, on top of one of those mountains.

In the anxious business of retrieving it, my beautiful thoughts were lost: like Sullivan's Lost Chord. A kindly funicular official, instead of yodelling, made a radio-call up the mountain (even some Swiss cows now sport aerials instead of

bells) and down came my cheese. My father ate it in deepest Oxfordshire a day or two later. He also received the postcard of the Hotel du Lac (where that book was written) which I had written, and then forgotten on top of another mountain. It must have blown across the path of some gnome who picked it up, bought a stamp and posted it. Should this article blow his way, I hope he will accept my thanks.

The message from St Jude is clear: travel lightly in this modern world, with its paucity of

porters and left luggage lockers, else you will lose either your earthly chatties or your mental faculties. I have nearly lost both often.

There was my Canadian overcoat which set out from Zurich to Florence by train without me in it: the railway clerk shook his head doubtfully but then predicted, correctly, its safe return on learning that it was 10 years older than me — and I have lost my youth. Then there were those blue-rinsed Americans I lost in Outer Mongolia when I was a

tour leader here. And my expensive Japanese camera which I left, while still smarting from the Gruyere affair, on another Swiss train.

But I have never lost anything permanently: unlike Carlisle whose only manuscript of the History of the World was inadvertently used to light a fire; or the Royal Navy, now renowned for losing two log books from one submarine; or the home secretary who lost his trousers using the train method.

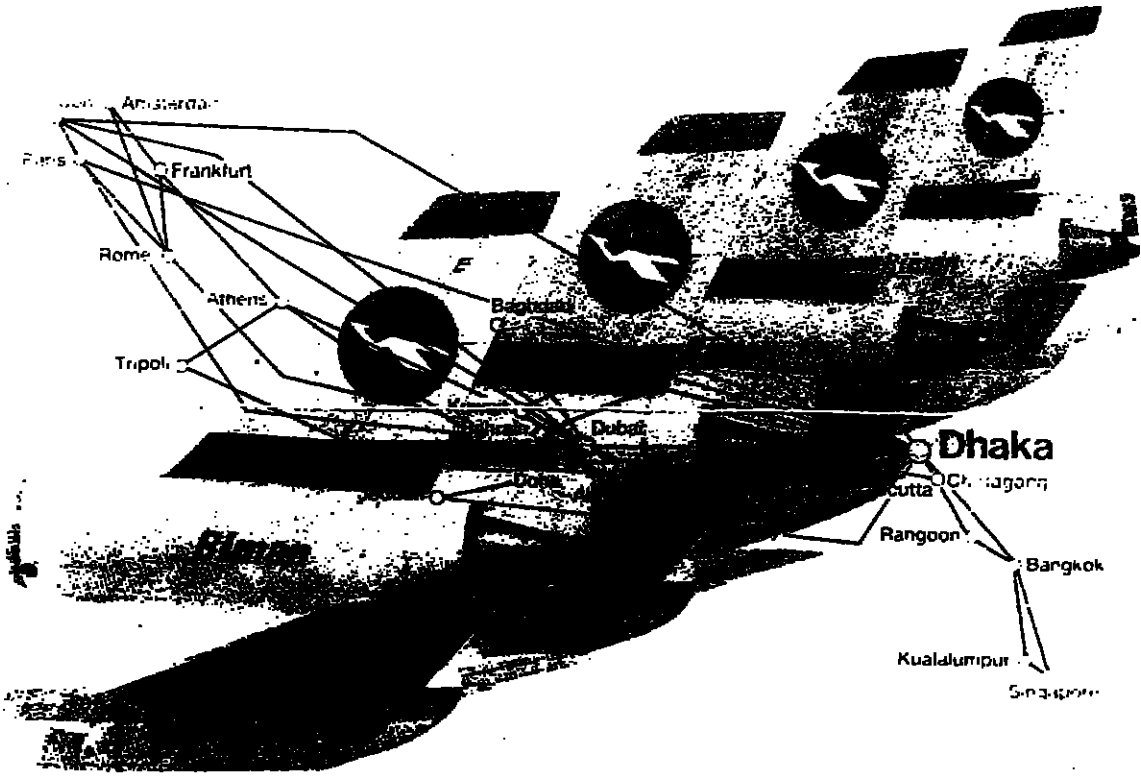
But being foolish hurts, so I now travel in a sort of assault course, terrorist's outfit (Rohan Bags). It is a mass of zip-up pockets into which I stuff money, passport, tickets, credit cards, receipts, duty free, maps, guide books, novels ... even the odd change of shirt.

"People should be forced to travel with hand baggage only," I pontificated recently to a fellow traveller by way of a conversation opener. We were in Catania Airport waiting for a delayed flight, but she was not impressed, having had her hand baggage plucked off her the day before, like a plum off a tree, by a man on a moped in Syracuse.

Perhaps, deep down, people possess clutter to attract the opposite sex by dazzling it with worldly wealth; but might not travelling very light — following Archimedes' example — serve that purpose as well? Well, perhaps not. If you are reading this while on the move, look around. Would your fellow passengers look better or worse with nothing on?

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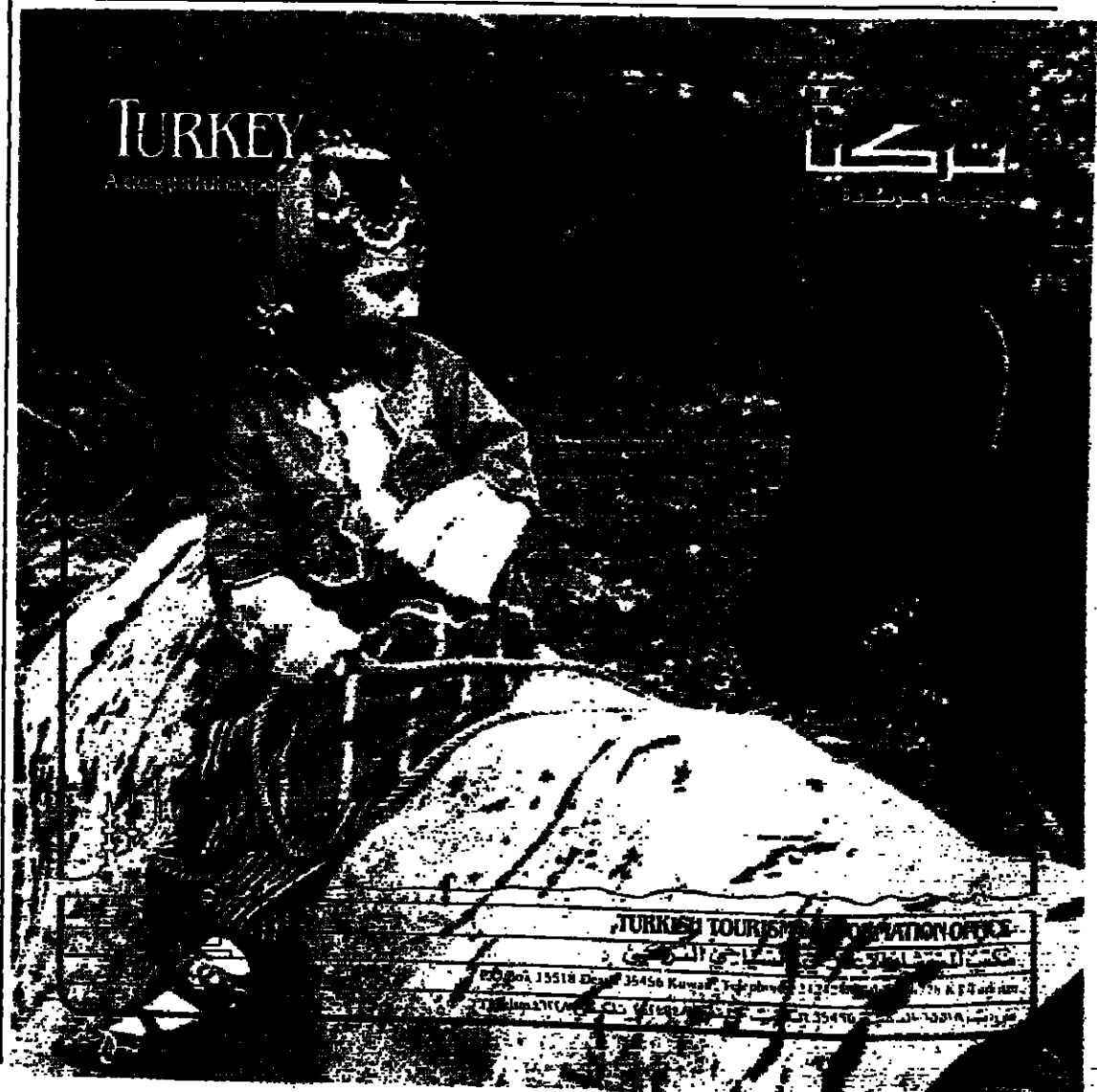
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Britain awards North Sea licences

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): Britain awarded more than 100 new licences to drill for North Sea oil yesterday, saying that industry enthusiasm for the area ensured it would still be a big producer well into the next century.

Energy Minister Peter Morrison announced the award of 105 exploration licences in an 11th licensing round for areas around the British coast since exploration began in the 1950s.

He said there had been 414 applications, nearly seven times as many as in the last round in 1987 when oil prices were weak. "The industry has responded magnificently and its commitment will ensure that the UK continental shelf continues to be a major international oil province well into the 21st century," he told parliament.

Companies may hold exploration licences for an initial six years and then must surrender half the block if they have not struck oil and got a licence to develop it.

They must initially pay about £80,000 (about \$125,000) for the average licensed block of some 250 square km (about 100 square miles). The rent soars almost twentyfold over 20 years.

Licences bestow an exclusive right to explore. Blocks are almost always shared with one firm designated as the operator.

While big oil companies won new acreage yesterday, the new round favoured smaller independent operators or as partners in consortiums led by bigger players.

Independents have alleged that some majors left exploration blocks idle after acquiring them in past rounds.

Aviation agreement

DUBAI, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways Corporation and Emirates Airways yesterday signed here an agreement concerning aviation co-operation between the two sides.

Under the agreement, EA will run 6 flights weekly to Kuwait and KAC will continue its current flights to the UAE.

Informal sources told KUNA EA, starting next month, will operate two flights per week to Kuwait to be increased to 6 flights a week as of October and the number of flights and plane seats could be increased during the two companies' next meetings.

The agreement was signed by KAC Deputy Director General for Commercial Affairs Gazi Al Mashan and EA Deputy Director General Sultan Deyar following two days of meetings.

It also allows KAC to run flights to Bombay and Karachi via Dubai, and in return EA will operate flights to Baghdad or Istanbul via Kuwait in addition to both companies' co-operation in the fields of auto reservation, training and insurance.

Fao begins reconstruction

FAO, Iraq, June 30, (AP): Kamal Yaqoub, one of the Iraqi soldiers who recaptured Fao from the Iranians last year, has returned to this ruined southern oil town to help rebuild it.

"I felt I'd left my duty half-done last time I was here. I'm here now to complete it," the 31-year-old Iraqi veteran said.

Yaqoub, an agronomist before the war, has been assigned the job of landscaping parks and palm groves in the new town that is rising from the ashes.

He is one of some 20,000 Iraqis, many of them demobilised veterans of the 8-year Gulf war, who this week began reconstructing Fao in the dusty scrubland on the western bank of the Shatt Al-Arab waterway, the southern boundary between the two countries.

The work force, with thousands of bulldozers, graders, mechanical diggers, mobile cranes, cement mixers and trucks, are toiling in the blistering summer heat, with temperatures soaring to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius).

Jordan tries to limit overseas labour force

No plan to expand services

AMMAN, Jordan, June 30, (Agencies): Labour Minister Jamal Al Biddou says the country plans to encourage replacement of foreign workers with Jordanians, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Arabic-language daily Al Rai quoted Al Biddou as saying the action will be taken after "free intensive training courses for Jordanians in the field of social and health care in order to provide professionals in the services field."

The announcement apparently was referring to nurses, waitresses, maids and other service workers from Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India.

"Our aim is to recruit Jordanian workers and eradicate unemployment," Biddou was quoted as saying.

He did not specify what steps would be taken to limit foreign workers. The country already has sharply increased the fees for foreign work permits.

Jordan is facing its worst economic difficulties in a decade and Mohammed Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, said earlier in the week that 10 per cent of the workforce is unemployed.

Other analysts have estimated the jobless rate even higher. The labour force has been growing at about 5 per cent a year while the economy has been sluggish in recent years.

The Gulf states which in the past absorbed much of Jordan's educated workforce have been cutting back on imported labour, eliminating a major source of new job opportunities.

In 1988, the Labour Ministry said more than 63,000 foreign labourers were working in Jordan: 15,000 from Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India and 41,000 from Egypt.

No official figure was available for 1989, but a Labour Ministry official told the Associated Press recently that the number of foreign workers, especially Egyptians, "grew much higher this year."

Biddou said Jordan did not "obstruct incoming foreign workers but we do not have any intention of expanding their services."

He also said the country would not target workers from Egypt, which is a fellow member of the Arab Co-operation Council, an alliance aimed at increased economic integration which also includes Iraq and North Yemen.

Low-income groups 'should be shielded from inflation'

AMMAN, June 30, (Reuters): A Jordanian newspaper said yesterday low-income groups should be shielded from inflation caused by the loss in purchasing power of the devalued dinar.

The Jordan Times said it was not unduly harsh to ask the rich and the middle classes to tighten their belts because of what it called the new realities in the kingdom's economy.

"As for the poor, it is simply inhuman to call on them to share in the overall belt tightening in view of their already depressed standard of living," the English-language daily said.

It said low-paid employees in the civil service, security forces, private companies and agriculture should get special treatment, but did not suggest how this could be financed.

"Whatever the price tag, it will surely never be as high as the cost of neglecting the needy," said the paper. Leaving the task unattended could cause instability, it added.

Jordan embarked on an IMF-agreed austerity programme in April, when price increases caused riots which killed 12 people and forced then-Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i to resign.

The government froze pay increments in the public sector this year despite inflation officially estimated at 14 per cent.

Inflation surged partly because of the higher cost of imports due to the weaker dinar, which has lost about 40 per cent of its dollar value in the past year.

A dispute between workers and management at Jordan Tobacco Company (JTC) ended this week when the company, after consulting the government, agreed to award more than 800 employees their annual pay increment, backdated to Jan. 1.

JTV's managing director, Mohammed Ali Al Sa'ad, told Reuters the company had wanted the pay rise linked to a further increase in cigarette prices, which are government-controlled.

He said a price increase in April of 110 fils per packet had netted the company only eight fils, with the rest going to the government. The company needed an increase of about 50 fils to compensate for the higher cost of imported raw materials.

the banks in July, but said they doubted that the market would respond much to such injections.

The Central Bank has not supplied foreign currency to commercial banks since October when it effectively devalued the dinar and told banks to use their own hard currency resources.

"The \$10 million will sell like hot potatoes," one banker said. "If the Central Bank can expand

currency reserves to enable it to intervene effectively. Dollars are hard to obtain through the banking system and a black market has sprung up this year to meet the demand. The dinar was quoted unofficially at 790 fils to the dollar on Thursday, compared to the 570 fils rate set by the Central Bank.

The bankers said they expected the Central Bank to make another \$20 million available to

the banks in July, but said they doubted that the market would respond much to such injections.

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"We last got a price increase to the benefit of the company in 1983 and have survived since then by cutting costs," he said.

Almost 6,000 local staff of the UN relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) are also seeking a wage rise and said this week they might take action if they do not get it.

UNRWA director Ele Saad told Reuters the agency, the second biggest employer in Jordan, was not unsympathetic to the demands but had no money in this year's budget for a pay award.

"Also, an organisation like UNRWA can't match completely out of step with government policy to reduce spending," he said.

its intervention, then eventually the market will calm down."

In an interview with the daily Al Rai and Jordan Times, Nabulsi says the country may use some of its gold reserves to help overcome a foreign exchange shortage.

He said the country could use 140,000 ounces of its 600,000 ounces of gold in exchange for a loan.

Strong demand may keep crude prices up

PDVSA chief sees stable market

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): Unexpectedly strong demand for petroleum may rescue the OPEC organisation from disarray and keep oil prices up for the rest of 1989.

It is also beginning to look as if the latest agreement by OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to curb excess supply may not have been as flawed as it first appeared.

Among oil company executives, Chevron Corp chairman Kenneth Derr said this week that he thought "we could lose a couple of dollars (a barrel) during the next few months."

But he said prices would probably rebound at the year's end. They normally rise as winter nears and consumers buy heating fuel.

"The oil market is going to be surprised at its appetite for OPEC oil," says the latest world oil report prepared by analysts with London finance house Kleinworth Benson.

One pricing indicator is an index based on an average of spot market prices for various grades of crude oil which is produced by Britain's biggest bank, the National Westminster.

The index briefly topped \$19 in April when a gas blast on North Sea platform caused a six-week

halt in the production of nearly half a million barrels daily of oil.

It is now back down around \$16 which is what Natwest expects it to average for the year. Although this is off the highs, it is still \$1.80 above the 1988 average.

Energy Security Analysis Inc, a US forecaster, says that available data suggests a fundamentally tight market for the rest of the year — unless OPEC output exceeds recent levels of around 21 million barrels daily.

Demand, if Western economies continue a brisk 3.3 per cent expansion, should be strong enough to mop up that volume. The International Energy Agency, for instance, has just raised its 1989 demand forecast by 600,000 barrels daily.

And prospects look stronger that OPEC production will stay around 21 million barrels daily for at least the next three months. Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa this week renewed a pledge to cut output.

Other OPEC leaders took him at his word. Prices responded with a gain of several cents. Kleinworth Benson reckons that, although OPEC supply may have jumped to 21.4 million barrels daily in June, Kuwait's

posture makes this a short-term peak.

Sheikh Ali says he will not necessarily restrain output beyond the next OPEC gathering in Paris on September 22, when the organisation will again try for an agreed share-out of quotas.

Meanwhile Juan Chacin, president of Venezuela's state oil conglomerate, foresees a stable oil market for the next decade and is asking for increased international co-operation to maintain stable prices.

Chacin, president of Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), spoke yesterday to hundreds of technical experts gathered at the 11th annual international association for energy economics conference in Caracas.

Chacin maintained that increases in energy conservation would prove too costly for the industrialised countries.

"We would expect ... a slowdown in the rate of improvement in energy conservation," he said, adding that alternative fuels such as alcohols and compressed natural gases "cannot compete in a free market environment."

He predicted that oil would account for over 90 per cent of energy consumed in transportation the world over well into the next decade.

Arbitrators make first award

Iranian oil expropriation case

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, June 30, (AP): The Iran-United States claims tribunal has awarded approximately \$110 million to the American oil giant Phillips Petroleum for expropriation of its Iranian operations in the aftermath of the 1979 Iranian revolution.

The arbitral award marks the first settlement to be reached in American oil company claims for expropriation, which together form the bulk of the commercial claims at the tribunal.

The Phillips award is the second largest issued by the tribunal since its inception almost eight years ago to settle billions of dollars worth of claims between Iran and the United States arising out of the revolution. A copy of the award, filed yesterday at the tribunal, was obtained today by the Associated Press.

The case stems from the Iranian government's breach of a contract between Phillips Petroleum Co. Iran and the National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) that had allowed Phillips offshore oil exploration and drilling rights in the Gulf for 15 years. Phillips Petroleum Co. Iran is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Delaware-based Phillips Petroleum Co.

NIOC is the Iranian government-owned company which oversees development and exploitation of that nation's oil resources.

The ruling, awarding \$55 million in damages plus 10 per cent interest per year dating from the September 1979 date of expropriation, was based on the potential resale value of the Phillips contract holdings in Iran.

Associated Press.

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The tribunal dismissed counterclaims from Iran totalling \$1.22 billion. In its counterclaims, Iran accused Phillips Petroleum Co. Iran or its parent company of breach of contract and renegeing on payments for oil to both NIOC and an Iranian operating company jointly established by NIOC and Phillips.

Still to be arbitrated are expropriation claims by the American oil companies Sun, Arco, Mobil, Exxon and Amoco, which together total about \$2.5 billion.

Iran has used the interest on the payment fund to replenish it, but the remaining interest will not be enough to bring the fund back up to \$500 million after this award is paid, according to the tribunal source, who spoke in exchange for anonymity.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

**For Subscription in Issue No. (60) for Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987**

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:

The Amount of this Issue is KD 50 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

2. ISSUE DATE : Wednesday 5 / 7 / 1989

3. DUE DATE : Wednesday 4 / 10 / 1989

4. OFFERING PERIOD:

From : Saturday 1 / 7 / 1989

To : Tuesday 4 / 7 / 1989

5. ALLOTMENT: Wednesday 5 / 7 / 1989

6. DELIVERY OF BILLS:

After one week following the date of submitting the application.

7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Shares in US drop sharply

Dollar edges down Gold losing its lustre

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): The dollar edged down today and American shares plunged because of more signs that the US economy is slowing down after more than six years of growth.

Shares in the United States fell sharply because of fears that the US economy could be headed for a recession. The drop was mirrored on the London Stock Exchange.

The dollar fell in a thin market, sold lower by market rumours, unsubstantiated by any official comment, the West German and US central banks were intervening to drive the dollar down.

The US currency closed in London at 1.9525 marks and 144.00 yen from an opening 1.9560 and 144.10.

It rose in morning trade but dipped after data was released in Washington showing that orders received by American factories fell a steep 2.5 per cent in May, the largest decline in 10 months.

These statistics followed publication on Wednesday of figures showing the index of leading indicators, the government's barometer of economic trends, fell 1.2 per cent in May, the biggest drop in 18 months.

These figures, and others recently released in the US capital, point to the economy slowing down, which might lessen the need for relatively high US interest rates which have boosted the dollar this year.

US interest rates have been tightened to fight inflation, and there is speculation that the Federal Reserve, the central bank, could decide to cut them next week.

Gold losing its lustre

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): Gold is no longer the safe haven for investors when the world suddenly seems in turmoil — it rose a paltry \$10 when Chinese troops brutally ended pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

This was one conclusion drawn this week when the who's who of the gold industry met in Lugano, Switzerland, to discuss the outlook for what is one of mankind's oldest and best-loved investments.

But gold might still glitter in the market place if consumers take up the slack left by investors and buy jewellery, delegates believed. "If the '70s were the era of the gold investor and the '80s the gold miner, then maybe the '90s could become the era of the gold consumer," said Brian Parker, deputy manager of the World Gold Council's jewellery division.

Contrast the reaction of investors after the June 3 upheaval in Beijing with January 1980, after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and the Iranians held US hostages in Tehran.

Gold prices more than doubled to \$850 an ounce in a scramble for a safe investment. There was a fever for bullion unmatched in recent history.

But this month, when in China the government of one quarter of the world's population brutally snuffed out a movement for more democracy, gold rose just \$10 an ounce, then slowly fell back.

Gold has fallen over \$80 an ounce since June last year, standing at \$371.15 at today's fix by leading bullion houses.

One reason, the experts in Lugano believed, is the lure of the dollar, buoyed this year by relatively high US interest rates and good returns on American equities.

This would put pressure on the dollar, and ease discussion of its appropriate range when leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised states meet in Paris on July 14.

A further reason for the dollar's weakness — it has risen to highs of 2.03 marks and 149.20 yen in London this year — was increase in rate rises by seven European countries yesterday.

The move was led by West Germany, which increased its two main rates half a percentage point to five and seven per cent in

what it said was an attempt to choke inflation feeding its way through the economy.

But some currency dealers thought it was also an attempt to support the mark against the dollar. The United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Italy and Canada, were believed to have set 1.90 marks and 140 yen as the upper ranges for the two currencies.

Gold closed down at \$371.75 an ounce, compared with \$375.50 yesterday.

International Bond Highlights

AMSTERDAM: Algemeene Bank Nederland NV said it is issuing a 9-1/8 pct 200 mln dir five year straight bond for itself at an issue price of 101-7/8 pct.

London: Electrolux de Portugal is launching a 10-year syndicated loan in marks to refinance an outstanding 28.3 billion yen credit, the Sumitomo Bank Ltd said as arranger.

London: Motor Oil (Hellas) Corinth Refineries SA, a Greek refining company, is launching a 180 mln dir, eight-year term loan, Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd said as arranger.

Tokyo: Net purchases of foreign bonds by Japanese investors fell to 7.11 billion dir in May from 11.32 billion a month earlier, the Finance Ministry said.

London: The Bank of England said its third reverse auction, aimed at buying 400 mln stg of short-dated stocks, attracted offers of 1,181 billion stg.

Frankfurt: Alfred Herrhausen, chief executive of Deutsche Bank AG, called for new action to deal with developing nation debt, suggesting a scheme which would reduce first interest payments and then capital claims on the debt of highly-indebted countries.

London: British Steel PLC is launching a 250 mln stg commercial paper programme with a US dollar option, Natwest Capital Markets Ltd said as arranger.

Zurich: Japan's Nippon Koshu Steel Co Ltd is issuing 140 mln Swiss francs in convertible notes with an indicated coupon of 5/8 pct and par pricing, lead manager Yamachi Bank (Switzerland) said.

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	89.50	90	89	NIJ IRON	128	133	134
ACC	315	319	319	319	319	319	NAT INDEX	396.89	396.89	399.71
ALEN CHEN	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ALW NIS	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ARI FAB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ASHOK LEY	74	74	76	76	76	76	---	---	---	---
ASIA PAINT	200	200	203.75	203.75	203.75	203.75	---	---	---	---
ATLAS COP	39	38	40	40	40	40	---	---	---	---
AUTO CORP	75	75.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	---	---	---	---
BAJAJ AUTO	370	372.50	370	370	370	370	---	---	---	---
BAR AYON	490	510	500	500	500	500	---	---	---	---
BK BOND	153	85	90	90	90	90	---	---	---	---
BLOM PLAST	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
BOM DYE	135.50	139	138	138	138	138	---	---	---	---
BSE INDEX	776.35	776.35	778.86	778.86	778.86	778.86	---	---	---	---
BURR MEL	212.50	206.25	210	210	210	210	---	---	---	---
CANSHARE	1810	180	180	180	180	180	---	---	---	---
CEN ENKA	2810	2900	2800	2800	2800	2800	---	---	---	---
CEN SPG	3000	3040	3040	3040	3040	3040	---	---	---	---
COLGATE	328.75	332.50	327.50	327.50	327.50	327.50	---	---	---	---
CORINT	1325	1300	1325	1325	1325	1325	---	---	---	---
DCM	10.50	11	10	10	10	10	---	---	---	---
DEEP FERT	32	32	32	32	32	32	---	---	---	---
DUNLOP	86	84	85	85	85	85	---	---	---	---
EI HOTELS	57.50	57	58.25	58.25	58.25	58.25	---	---	---	---
ESKORTE	68.50	69.50	70	70	70	70	---	---	---	---
ESKATF	130	132.50	130	130	130	130	---	---	---	---
ESSAR SPG	23	24.50	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	---	---	---	---
FOOD SPL	180	190	185	185	185	185	---	---	---	---
FORBES	52	53	51	51	51	51	---	---	---	---
GAR POLY	71	70	69	69	69	69	---	---	---	---
GE SHIPPING	42.25	43	42.75	42.75	42.75	42.75	---	---	---	---

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AEG	211.0
ALLIANZ VR	1890.0
BAEYER	233.0
BASF	292.0
BAYER	293.5
BAYER HYP	404.0
BAYER VER	394.0
BBC	470.0
BFI	465.0
BNW	562.0
COMMERZBK	248.0
CONTI GUMH	312.0
DAIMER BEN	691.0
DEUTSCHE BANK	600.0
DLW	570.0
DRESNER B	328.5
DT BARCOCK	213.5
FAZ INDEX	613.00
FELDMUEHLE	375.0
GOLDSCHEID	434.0
HARPER	452.0
HOECHST AG	296.0
HOESCH	251.0
HORTEN	671.0
HUSSEL HLD	202.0
KALI SALZ	213.0
KARSTADT	537.0
KLAUFHOF	506.0
KLOCKH H	193.0
LINDE	765.0
LUFTHANSA	185.7
MAN	327.0
MANHESMAN	252.5
MERCEDES	543.0
METALLGES	465.0
NIXDORF PF	306.0
NORSK HYD	46.00
PHILIP KOP	549.0
PORESCHE	778.0
PREUSSAG	313.5
PWA	314.0
RHEINMETAL	412.0
RUE	326.0
RUE P	274.0
SALAMANDER	334.0
SCHERING	670.4
SEL	322.0
SIEMENS	570.8
THYSSEN	240.3
VARTA	380.0
VEBA	324.5
VEW	200.0
VOLKSWAGEN	435.0

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
BANK EA	13.50
CATHAY	8.10
CANADIAN	272
CHINA K	6.95
CHINA L-P	11.10
DAIRY FARM	655
EVERGOLD	1.87
GT EAGLE	0
H S INDEX	273.91
HACCO	17
HANG LUNG	3.47
HENDERSON	3.42
HK BANK	5.30
HK ELEC	7.20
HK GAS	15.00
HK LAND	6.85
HK TELECOM	4.47
HK-S HOTEL	4.45
HOPWELL	1.92
HS BANK	19.70
HUTCHINSON	7.55
HYMAN DEV	1.14
JAR MATH	17.90
JSH	10.10
KH BUS	6.55
LA SUN	100
MANDARIN O	0
MARMAH	4.80
NEW WORLD	7.70
PAUL Y CON	.75
SHK PROP	7.80
STELLAR	1.86
SWIRE A	14.00
TAI CRELING	3.70
TV-B	0
WAFR	7.40
WINDOR	8.00
WORLD INTL	3.05

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AJINOMOTO	2700
AKAI ELEC	760
AKI	1320
ASAHI GLS	2320
ASAHI OPT	870
BANK TOKYO	1660
BRIDGESTON	1650
CANON	1790
CASIO COMP	1440
CHUGAI PHM	1800
CITIZEN W	1090
DAI NIP IK	865
DAI NIP PT	2250
DAI NIP SC	1270
DAI NIP TO	920
DAICEL	1070
DAIWA H	2020
DAIWA SEC	2100
EBRA MFG	2370
EISAI	1990
FUJITSU	1530
FUJITSU BANK	3400
FUJITSU PHOTO	1100
FUJITSU	1470
FUJITSU	1840
HITACHI	1540
HONDA MOT	1890
ISETAN	2460
ITO YOKADO	3850
JAP SYN RY	1140
JAPAN AIR	16200
JAPAN MET	1090
KAJIMA	1980
KANSAI EI	4400
KAO SOAP	1670
KAWASAKI H	1090
KAWASAKI S	900
KIRIN BEV	1850
KONATSU	1220
KUBOTA LTD	1120
KYOCERA	5910
MAKITA EL	1810
MARUI	2690
MATSUDA EI	2330
MATSUDA EL	0
NEIJI SEIK	1090

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE MIXED BUT WELL ABOVE LOWS

TOKYO, JUNE 30, REUTER - SPORADIC INDEX-LINKED BUYING BY TRUST FUNDS RESCUED SHARE PRICES FROM SEVERAL TROUGHS TO CLOSE MIXED IN VERY THIN TRADE AFTER EARLIER LOSSES. JITTERY INVESTORS AGAIN HELD BACK AS POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE YEN MULTIPLIED THE NUMBER OF TOKYO BEARS, BROKERS SAID.

"IT'S RECOGNISED THAT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL LIKELY LOSE IN THE (TOKYO ASSEMBLY AND UPPER HOUSE) ELECTIONS, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THAT?" SAID TOYO ASAKI, SENIOR BROKER AT YAMACHI SECURITIES. "WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?"

THE 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX SHED ONLY 7.62 POINTS TO CLOSE AT 32,948.69 AFTER LOSING AS MUCH AS 314.11 POINTS EARLIER.

THE KEY NIKKEI INDEX FELL 289.29 POINTS ON THURSDAY.

IT LOST 582.02 POINTS IN THE WEEK IN CONSISTENTLY THIN TRADE, FINISHING WITH FOUR STRAIGHT DAYS OF DECLINES.

"ELECTION MOES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE VOLATILITY, THE DIRECTION OF INTEREST RATES - ALL THESE FACTORS ARE STACKED UP AGAINST THE MARKET," SAID GREG BUNDY, MERRILL LYNCH JAPAN HEAD TRADER.

TURNOVER WAS 430 MLN SHARES AGAINST 400 MLN ON THURSDAY.

TRADERS SAID, ABOUT 541 BILLION YEN WORTH OF INVESTMENT TRUST FUNDS WERE SCHEDULED TO BE SET UP TODAY BY MAJOR JAPANESE BROKERS, AND ABOUT 322 BILLION WAS PEGGED FOR EQUITIES.

THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS BEEN UNDER FIRE BECAUSE OF AN ALLEGED SEX SCANDAL INVOLVING PRIME MINISTER SOSUKE UENO. AND INVESTORS ARE CONCERNED HE MAY SOON RESIGN.

INSTITUTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIDELINED AT LEAST UNTIL THEY GET SOME INDICATION OF HOW MUCH DAMAGE THE SCANDAL HAS DONE TO THE LDP FROM TOKYO ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS ON JULY 23. "IT WILL BE A QUIET MARKET AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF JULY," SAID A FOREIGN BROKER. "EVERYONE KEEPS ONE EYE ON THE YEN AND ONE EYE ON UENO."

THE BROADER FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, SLIPPED 4.61 POINTS TO 2,449.38 AFTER DROPPING 12.24 ON THURSDAY.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, JUNE 30, REUTER - SHARE PRICES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED AS THE MARKET RETRIEVED LOSSES AND GAVE UP GAINS IN A DAY OF SEE-SAW TRADE.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ENDED 1.41 POINTS LOWER AT 2,273.91. THE INDEX'S MORNING RANGE OF ABOUT 25 POINTS NARROWED TO A SLIM FIVE POINTS IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

"THE (HANG SENG'S) RANGE IS GOING TO BECOME NARROWER AND NARROWER OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS," SAID MARK LAWRENCE, A DIRECTOR OF BARRING SECURITIES. "THE TRADING RANGE IS NARROWING, VOLUMES ARE FALLING AND THE WHOLE MARKET IS QUIETENING DOWN."

AMMAN

As of 28.6.89	OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	---	---
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	---	---
ARAB BANK	---	---
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.54	4.54
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	---	---
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10	1.10
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.	---	---
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.11	1.16
ARAB INT. HOTELS	---	---
ARAB JOR/INVT/BK	2.37	2.40
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.36	0.35
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.	---	---
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	---	---
BEIT AL-MAL/BEITNA	---	---
BELGIUM INSURANCE	0.95	1.00
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	29.00	29.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	---	---
DAR ALDUAH DV/INV.	---	---
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	---	---
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	---	---
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27	1.25
GENERAL MINING.	2.10	2.10
HIMMEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	---	---
INDSTR DEVLPT BAK	---	---
INDSTR/COMM/AGR.	1.71	1.79
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERCOM/INV	0.13	0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.81	0.81
ISLAND INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
J-TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.50	19.50
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	---	---
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	---	---
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	---	---
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.18	2.18
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.50	2.45
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BUY	SELL	OPEN	CLSE
STOCK	19.75	20.00	19.75	20.00
AC-A	2.95	3.00	2.95	3.00
AW	25.50	26.00	25.50	26.00
PLDT	332.50	335.00	332.50	335.00
KPSI-A	3.90	4.00	3.90	4.00
SMC-A	242.00	243.00	242.00	243.00
SMC-B	342.50	355.00	342.50	355.00
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	---
APX-A	.014	.016	.015	.015
APX-B	.014	.016	.015	.015
AT-A	38.00	39.50	39.50	39.50

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	6,660,595	69,183,202.50	1,256.14	23.58	D
M/NING	92,010,700	15,099,050.00	4,874.41	65.82	D
OIL	519,100,000	13,664,100.00	7.201	0.140	W
TOTAL	617,771,295	97,946,352.50	1,010.29	17.98	N

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BUY	SELL	OPEN	CLSE
STOCK	244.00	245.00	244.00	245.00
SMC-A	342.50	345.00	342.50	345.00
PLDT	330.00	332.50	330.00	332.50
AW	2.95	3.00	2.95	3.00
AC-A	2.00	2.05	2.00	2.05
GLO	25.50	26.00	25.50	26.00
FER-A	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02
FER-B	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	---
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	CLSE
APX-A	.014	.015	.015	.015
APX-B	.014	.016	.015	.015
AT-A	38.00	39.00	40.00	40.00
AT-B	38.00	39.00	40.50	40.50

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	6,363,145	66,065,050	1258.47	-16.74	
M/NING	172,360,600	16,494,450	4559.68	-80.21	
OILS	641,900,000	18,527,200	7.579	-0.197	
TOTAL	820,623,745	101,086,700	1012.72	-18.54	

SINGAPORE

AOEF A	---	---	---	---	---	---	G LUNAK
AOEF B	---	---	---	---	---	---	G TOMAN
AIJINOMOTO	123	123	GAIDA HU	---	---	---	G U HLDG
ANAL IND	140	140	GEN CORN	---	---	---	---
ANAL PROP	36	36	GERTING	---	---	---	---
AMCOL	132	131	141 GDS	---	---	---	---
BERJAYA	141	143	GSI	---	---	---	---
BOUSTED	146	145	GUINNESS	---	---	---	---
BERLINBERG	570	575	GULA	---	---	---	---
CM	330	330	GUTHRI	---	---	---	---
BEROBOS	545	540	H I IND	---	---	---	---
ENHEND	316	318	HARIMAU	---	---	---	---
K TANG	474	480	HAN HAW	---	---	---	---
ALDOLD STOR	346	348	HEKZA	---	---	---	---
S HLDGS	45	45	INNO-PAN	---	---	---	---
KECK	525	525	INOVES	---	---	---	---
INVAS	148	148	INSAS	---	---	---	---
INDO BND	---	---	INT WOOD	---	---	---	---
JUTACHA	29	29	ISATAN	---	---	---	---
JUTACHABY	460	460	ISATAN	---	---	---	---
ALC MACM	197	200	SHIPTA	---	---	---	---
ALC MACM	362	362	JACKS L	---	---	---	---
U YAN S	251	251	JC ENT	---	---	---	---
A C B	---	---	JP-MPH	---	---	---	---
E SHIP	358	362	JOHAN H	---	---	---	---
AN RD	980	995	G G HLDG	---	---	---	---
EFB CAL	---	---	K KELLG	---	---	---	---
ED FLOW	620	620	KARUNTA	---	---	---	---
MAA BHD	---	---	KAMUNTI	---	---	---	---
JUJITE	656	656	KE SANG	---	---	---	---

Businessmen duped

Office boy posed as teenage tycoon

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 30, (Reuters): A 16-year-old office boy duped businessmen in Britain and the United States into believing he was an international tycoon, writing almost \$700,000 worth of dud cheques, a court heard.

The youth, earning £29 a week on a British government training scheme for school leavers, started his financial dealings at the age of nine when he began to show an interest in stocks and shares.

Seven years later he had developed a penchant for fast cars and property and thought he had entered the big time.

He tried to buy a £70,000 (\$108,000) apartment in Miami and draw up an investment portfolio worth £250,000 (\$388,000) in Britain. All his cheques bounced.

Prosecutor Jill Hawkins told the court on Wednesday that the boy, who had also claimed to own seven acres (2.5 hectares) in New York, launched a series of grandiose financial transactions after setting up his company, C.K.P. Property Construction Group.

"He exuded self-confidence and was eloquent, but isn't half as intelligent as he would like others to think," she said.

"It is somewhat surprising that apparently intelligent businessmen were willing to enter into contracts with someone who was obviously no great asset."

The youth admitted three charges of attempting to obtain goods or property by deception and asked 20 similar offences to be taken into consideration.

He was put on probation for two years on condition he underwent treatment from a psychologist and was ordered to pay £50 (\$77.5) in costs. His father was ordered to pay £3,310 (\$5,100) in compensation.

Gulf Air to buy 24 planes

CHANTILLY, Virginia, June 30, (AP): Airbus Industrie announced yesterday that Gulf Air will buy 24 aircraft for use on its Middle Eastern routes in a deal worth at least \$960 million.

The deal includes 12 each of Airbus A320 and A321 planes with options to purchase six additional A320s.

The A320 is a single-aisle, twin-engine aircraft seating 150 passengers in a two-class layout. The A321 is a stretched version of the A320, seating 186 passengers.

Gulf Air, which is owned jointly by the Arab states of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, will begin taking delivery of the A320s in the spring of 1992, and A321s in the second half of 1994.

Airbus and Gulf Air, which is based in Bahrain, did not release a total package price of the deal, but Airbus said the A320's basic price is \$38 million.

US standard of living trails other major industrial nations

WASHINGTON, June 30, (AP): The growth in Americans' living standards lagged behind other major industrial nations last year despite a big surge in US export sales, according to a report on competitiveness released yesterday.

The report, prepared by the Council of Competitiveness, found the United States had failed to keep pace with its major trading partners over the past 16 years, with the country losing more ground in 1988.

The findings came from the council's second annual "competitiveness index," an effort to measure the US standing in the world economy in terms that have meaning to the average American.

The council tracks competitiveness in four areas — living standards, worker productivity, the US share of

the world export market and American investment in education and non-defence research and development.

These four categories were picked because of their relationship to America's changing fortunes in the world economy.

US investment must keep pace with expenditures of other nations in order to boost American productivity, a measure of output per hour of work. Rising productivity is needed to make American products competitive on world markets, thus lowering America's huge trade deficit and providing the income growth to boost American living standards.

For 1988, the competitiveness index found America had made progress in trade and investment, compared with its major trading partners, but had lost

ground in living standards and productivity.

The index measures US performance against the six other leading industrial countries — Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. Leaders from the seven nations met each year for an economic summit, with the next meeting scheduled for July 14-16 in Paris.

"The 1988 index shows that American products are now capturing a growing share of world markets, but the downside is that other nations are still outperforming us in terms of standard of living and productivity growth," said council chairman John Young, the head of Hewlett-Packard Co.

Lawrence Chimere, an economic adviser to the Wafa Group, a consult-

ing firm that helped prepare the index, said that the need to improve America's productivity was emphasized by a separate report yesterday, showing that the United States widened its lead as the world's largest debtor country with a net debt position of \$532.5 billion last year. The net debt figure means foreigners own more in US assets than Americans own in foreign assets.

"Our foreign debt burden will become bigger if our productivity does not go up and allow us to compete more effectively in global markets," Chimere said. "If we don't get our productivity growth back up again, there is no way we will see our living standards improve."

The "competitiveness index" defined standard of living as the country's total economic output divided by

the population.

The living standard grew 3.1 per cent in 1988. However, that lagged behind a 5.1 per cent increase in living standards in Japan and a 3.8 per cent increase for the other six summit nations.

Because of these developments, the council's standard of living index dropped from 90.3 per cent to 89.7 per cent of the base year of 1972.

In absolute terms, the United States no longer has the highest standard of living, ranking second to West Germany. In 1989, economic output on a per capita basis was \$15,250 in West Germany, 13,840 in the United States and \$11,820 in Japan.

Among the report's other conclusions: ■ In 1988, the US export boom fuelled a rise in the trade index from 76.9 to

89.6 per cent of its 1972 base, reflecting a partial rebound in America's share of the world export market. The US share of world exports was 10 per cent last year, still below a high of 14 per cent set in 1974.

■ Productivity, the output per worker, fell to 87.4 per cent of its 1972 base, down slightly from 87.8 per cent, reflecting faster productivity improvements in the other six industrial countries.

■ Long-term US investment rose from 97.5 per cent to 100.4 per cent, the only measurement doing better than the 1972 base year.

The council, founded in 1986, is composed of officials from business, labour and higher education who are seeking to improve the ability of American companies to compete in world markets.

Japan's jobless rate stands at 2.4 pc

No plans to raise rates: minister

TOKYO, June 30, (Reuters): Japan has no plans to raise interest rates despite rises in key rates by seven European countries and a warning by the club of rich nations that world inflation is set to soar, the Finance Minister Tatsuhiro Murayama said today.

He said he saw no need to change Japan's monetary policy now, despite interest rate rises in Europe yesterday.

"We are still monitoring the effect of our own discount rate rise," he told reporters.

Japan's Central Bank raised its key discount rate on May 31, for the first time in more than nine years, to 3.25 per cent from a record low 2.5 per cent.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in its twice-yearly economic report that inflation will rise this year and next in the 24-nation bloc and could undermine seven years on economic growth unless checked.

The OECD said the economies of the industrialised world were in better shape than at the start of the 1980s but stronger than expected growth meant inflation was now the number one concern.



Tatsuhiro Murayama

Interest rate increases are a favourite government tool to choke off surging corporate and consumer spending by making money more expensive to borrow.

The West German Bundesbank said yesterday it was raising its two key interest rates, the Lombard and discount rates, half a point to seven per cent and five per cent, respectively.

France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark raised rates as well.

The OECD said Japan should boost the yen to increase domestic living standards and curb a rise in its trade surplus.

It stopped short of suggesting that the Japanese Central Bank should raise interest rates again, but said: "The key to market confidence in the yen is the resolve of the monetary authorities to take action to keep inflation low."

It said Japanese inflation, traditionally a byword for virtual price stability, was forecast to reach 2.75 per cent next year from two per cent in 1989, boosted by higher import prices and the one-off impact of a consumption tax introduced in April. It said, it was less than one per cent last year.

Consumer prices in May rose 2.9 per cent from a year earlier while inflation in the Tokyo area, a leading indicator for the nation as a whole, was up 3.4 per cent, the government said today.

An economic planning agency official told reporters that prices were still basically stable, leaving aside the impact of the new sales tax.

"Almost all the impact of the consumption tax has been factored into overall prices by June," the official said.

Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 2.4 per cent in May, it was announced today.

Japan urged to boost yen

Move to increase living standards

PARIS, June 30, (Reuters): Japan should boost the yen to increase domestic living standards and choke a rise in its trade surplus, the OECD said today.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast in its half-yearly report that Japanese economic growth would fall gradually from 4.75 per cent this year to 4.25 per cent in 1990.

Though it revised 1990 growth up by a half percentage point from a December forecast, it also saw domestic demand slowing more steeply and Japan's trade surplus, a recent source of friction between Tokyo and Washington, widening more strongly.

"The task ahead is to maintain strong non-inflationary growth of domestic demand," the OECD said. "A gradual appreciation of the yen... would contribute to the achievement of these domestic and external goals."

In December, the 24-nation think-tank saw Japan's 1989 current account surplus of \$77 billion falling to 72 billion next year.

Now, OECD economists are projecting that a surplus of \$80 billion this year will translate into \$3 billion in 1990, boosted by an unexpected surge in

exports. Persistent downward pressure on the yen would complicate the task of dealing with the domestic and external problems, the OECD said, warning that co-ordinated action by the Bank of Japan in the currency market may only help in the short run.

On May 31, for the first time in eight years, the Japanese Central Bank raised the discount rate by three-quarter point to 3.25 per cent to defend the yen against the dollar's rise.

Though the OECD stopped short of suggesting that the Japanese Central Bank should raise official rates again, it said: "The key to market confidence in the yen is the resolve of the monetary authorities to take action to keep inflation low."

Japanese inflation, traditionally a byword for virtual price stability, is forecast to reach 2.75 per cent next year from two per cent in 1989, boosted by higher import prices and the one-off impact of a consumption tax introduced in April 1989. It had been less than one per cent last year.

The OECD also said prices would steady if Tokyo made further structural reforms to ease the adjustment to a domestic-led economy from one dependent on exports.

Dutch deputy minister resigns

Financial dispute

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, June 30, (AP): A deputy economic affairs minister resigned yesterday following accusations he accepted a loan from a company that received millions of dollars in subsidies from his ministry.

Albert-Jan Evenhuis, a prominent member of the right-wing Liberal Party, the junior partner in Premier Ruud Lubbers caretaker coalition government, formally submitted his resignation to Queen Beatrix after parliamentary calls for his dismissal earlier this week, a ministry announcement said.

Yesterday's resignation came as Lubbers was criticised in parliament over his role in a financial dispute between Kuwait and the Lubbers family concern.

Evenhuis, 47, is the fourth official of cabinet rank to resign since 1984, when Lubbers' second term began.

At issue is a 225,000-guilder (\$112,500) loan that Evenhuis took out from a printing company in Meppel, his eastern Dutch home town, in November 1987. The manager of the company was an Evenhuis acquaintance.

In the same year and in 1988, the Economics Ministry granted a total of 8.8 million guilders (about \$4.4 million) in subsidies for a new plant that the printing company was building in a region plagued by high unemployment, newspaper reports said.

At the ministry, Evenhuis was responsible for approving such subsidies.

When reports about the loan surfaced earlier this month, Evenhuis told the Dutch parliament that he had taken it out to help a financially troubled brother-in-law.

But on Wednesday, the independent Rotterdam newspaper NRC-Handelsblad published copies of court papers stating that he has used the loan to pay off a bank that threatened to forcibly sell real estate owned by Evenhuis because of arrears in mortgage payments.

Over the past two years, Lubbers' centre-right coalition government has been plagued with resignations.



US corporate raider T. Boone Pickens tells Japanese and foreign reporters his impression of the shareholders meeting of Koito Manufacturing Company, in which he holds a 20.2 per cent share and is demanding three seats on the board. In spite of the closed nature of Japan's business world he outlined, Pickens said he will back for next year's meeting and "press ahead with whatever it takes." (Reuters wirephoto)

Investor denied seats

Japanese company's board

TOKYO, June 30, (AP): American corporate raider T. Boone Pickens and a special kind of Japanese racketeers both were arguing yesterday for greater shareholders' rights in Koito Manufacturing Co., of which Boone is the biggest shareholder.

Koito's shareholders' meeting ended, however, by rejecting Pickens' request for three seats on the 20-member board of directors.

Among the some 200 shareholders present, Pickens was the only hand raised to give seats to Pickens and two of his associates, Sidney Tassin and Robert Stillwell.

Koito officials said their reluctance to grant Pickens a seat had nothing to do with his being American. They said that because of his history of corporate raiding in the United States, they doubted he had a long-term interest in the company. They added that he has no experience in manufacturing.

It was "the most unusual shareholders' meeting I've ever attended in my life," said Pickens, who in March bought 20.2 per cent of the stock in the automobile lights manufacturer.

Pickens spoke for about 20 minutes at the meeting, saying Japan needed greater shareholders' rights and should open up more to the world and give foreign investors like himself a chance to participate in its economy.

For the next several hours, "Sokaiya," racketeers who buy stock and then harass management at meetings in efforts to obtain payoffs, defended Pickens and criticized Koito in the rough language usually associated with gangster movies.

They interrupted the speeches of company executives with shouting, addressed the president as "you, you," and elicited gales of laughter from Japanese reporters watching on closed-circuit television by discussing high-flown ideas in gutter language.

Bonn must boost reforms: OECD

PARIS, June 30, (Reuters): West Germany's economy, the strongest in Europe, will continue to grow this year but will tail off slightly in 1990, the OECD said today.

It also saw unemployment falling for the first time in 10 years as the economy powered by exports, pushed ahead.

In its latest half-yearly outlook, the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said that despite the mark's rise in currency markets, exports would provide the motor for growth for the foreseeable future.

The report was made prior to yesterday's half-point rise in West Germany's two leading official interest rates, which aimed to combat consumer price inflation and support the purchasing power of the mark.

The Paris-based think-tank added that economic growth of around three per cent in the first half of 1989 could flag towards the end of the year.

But it will then be bolstered by a 20-billion-mark (\$10.15 billion) income tax cut in 1990. Growth of three per cent this year should therefore decline only slightly to 2.75 per cent in 1990.

In contrast to its forecast in December of a virtually steady current account balance this year and next, the OECD now sees Bonn's payments surplus this year of \$48 billion expanding by 10.5 per cent in 1990.

Policy in Germany should involve... an acceleration of structural reforms in order to sustain strong non-inflationary growth of domestic demand and to promote external adjustment," the OECD said.

A prime candidate for reform is the over-regulated transport sector, it said.

Tehran world's most expensive city

GENEVA, June 30, (AP): Inflation and a shortage of goods have made Tehran the world's most expensive city, ending Tokyo's four-year run at the top of the list, according to a survey of 105 cities published yesterday.

Despite high inflation rates, Latin American cities remain the most financially attractive to expatriates, with Ecuador capital Quito winning the title of least expensive city, according to the twice-yearly study by Business International, a Geneva-based research and consulting company.

Taking New York as the base of 100 and using the dollar exchange rate of April 3, Tehran had a cost-of-living index of 209, followed by Tokyo at 202 and another Japanese city, Osaka Kobe, 200.

The strength of the CFA franc and heavy import taxes placed six West African cities in the "top ten" most expensive world-wide locations, headed by Gabon capital Libreville with an index of 166.

Oslo, ranked eighth on the international list, continued to be the costliest European city for expatriates, with an index of 142.

Moscow rose 14 index points from December 1988 to 111, making it more expensive than Paris (110) or London (109).

Five of the six cheapest cities in the world were in Latin America. Quito had an index of only 34, while Venezuelan capital Caracas and the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo were rated at 42.

Brazil had an inflation rate of 1200 per cent in the 12 months to April 1989 but the impact on expatriates was offset by devaluation of the cruzado against the dollar, according to the study.

The survey uses a weighted index based on a variety of items including food, entertainment and transportation but not housing. It is aimed at helping international companies determine cost of living differentials for their expatriate employees.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 28/06/1989			
B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Elizabeth K	Algh. Barwil	4842988
5	Daizu Maru	Algh. Barwil	4842988
7	Kongo Maru	Algh. Barwil	4842988
8	Sham	ISA	2441860
9	Spring Falcon	Salmiah	4745471
17	Golden Bear	M. Bahar	2433881

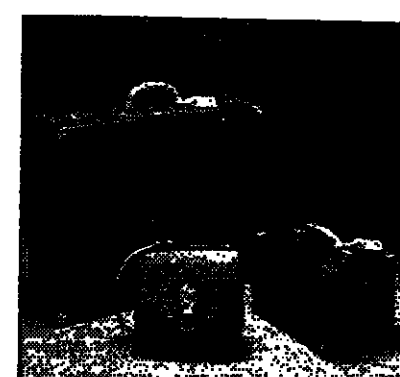
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
29/6	Battarres	GH&Q	4347815
29/6	Rainbow Star	GH&Q	4347815
29/6	Chattanooga L.	T. Cont	2436920
30/6	Maerck Fiero	Behbehani	2412085
30/6	Ever Ocean	Salmiah	4745471
30/6	Sparkle Moon	GH&Q	4347815
30/6	Florest	Al Sawan	4746018
30/6	Hual Favorita	A.M. Bahar	2459891
30/6	Maerck	Algh. Barwil	4842988

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIA PORT			
B.No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Malak	ISA	2441860
6	Stammarier	Algh. Barwil	4843988
9	Ascona	Algh. Barwil	4843988
11	Victor	ISA	2441860
12	Golden Polydimamos	A. Seas	2421303
14	Sunny Superior	United	2457958
16	Marjon	Al Kamal	2425437
19	Ibn Al Ather	UASC	4843150
BH-3	Tug Gulf Master	Sagership	2432692
BH-3	Barge-308	Sagership	2432692

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIA PORT			
ETA	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel. No.
26/6	Ibn Al Ather	UASC	4843150
27/6	Stammarier	Algh. Barwil	4843988
28/6	Marjon	Al Kamal	2425437
28/6	Golden Bear	M. Bahar	2433881
28/6	Ibn Malik	UASC	4843150

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Aouita seeks revenge

OSLO, June 30, (Reuters): Said Aouita seeks revenge over Kenyan Yobes Ondieki in the 5,000 metres while Ingrid Kristiansen hopes to break her world 10,000 metres record at tomorrow's Slettest Games Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Aouita, the world champion and record holder, suffered his first defeat over 5,000 in 10 years when Ondieki defeated him comprehensively in Seville, Spain, last week.

The Moroccan's comparative failure at last year's Seoul Olympics, when his ambitious attempt to complete the 800-1,500 double ended in his settling for the bronze in the 800, has further fired his already fierce ambition.

He wants to be remembered as the most versatile runner at middle and long distance of all time and although he was suffering from the after-effects of flu in Seville, Aouita quickly made it clear that he wanted a swift rematch with Ondieki.

For his part, Ondieki's flagging career has revived remarkably at the age of 27 and this season he has already set personal bests in each of his six races.

Aouita's world record of 12 minutes 58.39 seconds could be under threat tomorrow, although chief Kenyan athletics coach Mike Kogge is concerned that his runners should not peak too soon in a long season culminating in next January's Auckland Commonwealth Games.

"We don't want our athletes now to be at their peak so we are telling them to take it easy," Kogge said. "We still have a long season."

Kristiansen, who also had an unhappy Olympics when she was forced to drop out of the women's 10,000 final with a foot injury, is confident she can beat her own world mark of 30:13.74 set here three years ago.

"I hope and believe I'm good enough to set a record at Bislett," Kristiansen said this week. "I ran the first 3,000 in 9:10 when I last set a record and I shall do something similar now."

"If I start much faster it will not be so easy to run the last 3,000 metres faster than the first (3,000), which I should do if there's to be a record."

A top-class meeting, which also features a 100 metres clash between Olympic champion Carl Lewis and exciting newcomer Leroy Burrell, ends with the traditional Dream Mile.

Briton Steve Cram, another to have a disappointing Olympics, heads a field which includes Ireland's world indoor 1,500 metres champion Marcus O'Sullivan and East Germany's Olympic 1,500 bronze medalist Jens Peter Herold.

Giants take Cubs to task

NEW YORK, June 30, (AP): Pitcher Scott Garretts hit the ball so well that it cost him a chance to win a game.

Garretts' two-run triple was one of eight straight hits during a seven-run outburst in the second inning yesterday that sent the San Francisco Giants over Chicago 12-2, the Cubs' seventh consecutive loss.

Results		
National League		
Atlanta	2	Cincinnati 1
Houston	8	Montreal 3
San Francisco	12	Chicago 2
San Diego	15	Los Angeles 3
American League		
Boston	11	Milwaukee 1
Toronto	7	Baltimore 3
New York	10	Detroit 6
California	7	Minnesota 3
Chicago	10	Kansas City 5
Seattle	2	Texas 0

Hampshire reach NatWest 2nd round

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): A NatWest Trophy record opened stand of 228 between Chris Smith and Paul Terry set up Hampshire for a crushing 147-run victory over Cheshire at Chester yesterday.

Smith, who made 159 — the fifth highest individual score in the 27 years of the 60-over competition — and Terry, who scored 99, bettered the previous record of 227 by Hampshire openers Roy Marshall and Barry Reed against Bedfordshire in 1968.

Cheshire's hopes of getting anywhere near Hampshire's huge score of 306 for two virtually disappeared when Malcolm Marshall removed both openers with only 15 on the board.

The minor county battled to 159 all out in 47.1 overs, Marshall finishing with four for 40. South African Allan Donald bowled Warwickshire to an even more emphatic victory at Edgbaston when he shot out the first five Wiltshire batsmen with only nine runs on the board.

Wiltshire, replying to Warwickshire's 270 for four, scrambled to 84 all out, paceman Don-

Kersee shrugs off 'drug coach' comments

NEW YORK, June 30, (Reuters): Bob Kersee, the coach of world heptathlon record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey and other US athletics stars, yesterday shrugged off allegations made at a Canadian government inquiry that he was a "drug coach."

Canadian sprinter Angela Bailey, who trained with him at the University of California in Los Angeles for six months in

1986, testified on Wednesday that Kersee was a "drug coach," who "didn't know how to coach me because I was drug free."

Kersee dismissed Bailey's testimony. "I never offered her drugs. I never told her she needed drugs to run faster," he said.

Bailey said she left Kersee's programme because she believed he could not coach her effectively without performance-

enhancing drugs.

Reached in Los Angeles, Kersee said Bailey had already made up her mind about his programme before arriving in January 1986 and that he felt no further comment was necessary.

"If she came out and made a statement that Bob Kersee told me to take drugs, that Bob Kersee told me that you need drugs to

be successful, that Bob Kersee suggested to me that you need to take drugs, then that's a different story. She didn't say that about me because she couldn't."

Asked again about Bailey's comment that he could not coach her because she was drug free, Kersee said: "That's her opinion and I can't do anything about people's opinions."

Antibo runs 2nd fastest 10,000m

Myricks wins men's long jump

HELSINKI, June 30, (Reuters): Italian Salvatore Antibo clocked the second fastest time ever for the men's 10,000 metres yesterday after a marvellous duel with Ethiopia's Addis Abebe.

The Olympic silver medalist recorded 27 minutes 16.50 seconds at the World Games Grand Prix athletics meeting, second only to Portuguese Fernando Mamede's five-year-old world record of 27:13.81.

Although the pace was five seconds up on world record schedule at 9,000 metres, neither Antibo nor Abebe were able to match the blistering last three laps run by Mamede and his compatriot Carlos Lopes in Stockholm on July 2, 1984.

With two laps to run the world record was out of sight but the struggle between Antibo and world junior cross country champion Abebe had the crowd on their feet screaming encouragement.

Antibo led through the bell by a metre but Abebe gathered his strength to edge past the Italian on the back straight.

With 200 to go Antibo drew level and on the final turn made a supreme effort to stride past the Ethiopian. He gradually drew away to win by metres and better his personal best by more than seven seconds.

"For the last three kilometres I didn't look at the clock," Antibo said. "I just ran. Abebe was very strong."

Abebe clocked 27:18.82 — the fourth fastest time ever — to better his own junior world record but because of uncertainty about his birth date it was not immediately clear whether the mark would be recognised.

On June 11, Abebe shattered



Antibo raises his arms in victory after beating Abebe. (Reuters wirephoto)

his own world 5,000 junior mark with a 13:23.17 clocking in the Znamenskiy Memorial Grand Prix meet at Volgograd in the Soviet Union.

Earlier this year, Abebe turned in another impressive performance as he captured the men's junior race in the World Cross

Country Championships at Stavanger, Norway.

Last year, Abebe set a world 10,000-metre junior record of 27:50.24.

"I wasn't tired, but I just couldn't answer Antibo's final kick down the stretch. I simply got outtraced," the Ethiopian said.

Australians scoff at drug allegations

SYDNEY, June 30, (Reuters): Australian cricket officials scoffed at allegations their Test side had been supplied steroids by the doctor of disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

Canadian national athletics coach Bryan McKinnon told a government inquiry on Wednesday that Jamie Astaphan had in 1985 bragged of supplying steroids to the Australian team.

"It is extremely disappointing that unsubstantiated bragging of this nature has surfaced in another country, at a time when the drug-free Australian cricket team is performing superbly in England," the Australian Cricket Board said in a statement today.

Australia have won the first two Tests in a six-Test tour of England.

Greg Matthews, an off-spinner in the 1985 team, said the claims were laughable as steroids would not help a cricketer.

"Steroids tend to give a short sharp burst of energy and in cricket we play up to six hours a day. If fast bowlers did get bulked up they would tend to get too muscle-bound and lose rhythm and pace," Matthews told a television interviewer.

Gower, whose England side suffered their second successive defeat in the second Test against Australia on Tuesday, survived a dropped chance in the 90s before lashing an unbeaten 101 off 110 balls.

His innings included 10 fours and two sixes and helped Leicestershire reach their 221 victory target comfortably for the loss of just four wickets and with more than five overs to spare.

Shropshire were struggling on 21 for three, but former Lancashire captain John Abrahams led a spirited revival with Mark Davies to pilot the minor county towards a total of 220 for seven from their 60 overs.

Kent also steam-rolled their way into the second round with a merciless 198-run victory over Dorset at Canterbury.

Chris Cowdrey smashed an unbeaten 69 off 28 balls, including nine fours and three sixes, as he and brother Graham amassed 102 in just over six overs to launch Kent to a competition-best 358 for four.

Simon Hinks (62) and Roy Pienaar (90) had set up the rout with a sizzling second-wicket stand of 71 in 16 overs.

Fignon among favourites

Four champions in Tour de France

LUXEMBOURG, June 30, (AP): Four former champions will be in the field tomorrow when this year's Tour de France starts a 2,020-mile (3,250-kilometre), 23-day journey.

Pedro Delgado of Spain, the defending champion; Stephen Roche of Ireland, the 1987 winner; Greg LeMond, who became the first US winner in 1986; and Laurent Fignon, a two-time title, are among the almost 200 riders in this year's event.

The world's most famous cycling race begins in Luxembourg. The tour also began outside France two years ago, when the start was in West Germany.

Tomorrow's competition is a short prologue. The first two official stages are Sunday, with a team time trial and a regular stage.

It continues through Belgium for the first two days and starts a counterclockwise loop of France, ending in Paris on July 23.

The mountain stages in the Pyrenees and the Alps will probably determine the champion, but time gained on the flatlands of western France will also be important.

In a break from usual procedures, the final portion will be a time trial from Versailles to Paris. Instead of the winner riding safely in the pack, the leader will be alone and the followers trying to gain time. If the difference is only a few seconds, the race may be decided on the Champ Elysees.

Fignon won his country's tour in 1983 and 1984, but then went into a slump. He recently won the Tour of Italy and has had his best year since his tour wins.

Injuries and stomach caused Fignon to drop out of the last two Tour de France, but this year he is among the favourites.

Jenkins admits taking drugs

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): David Jenkins, Britain's former 400 metres star convicted in California last year for supplying steroids, has admitted using drugs during two Olympic Games.

Jenkins said in an interview shown on British television yes-



Fignon blows on an instrument to check his breathing capacity. (Reuters wirephoto)

The returning champion, Delgado, was found to have traces of probenicid in his system after last year's race. At the time, probenicid was not against the rules for cyclists, though it was banned by the International Olympic Committee and can be used to mask forbidden drugs. The International Cycling Union has since added it to its list of banned products.

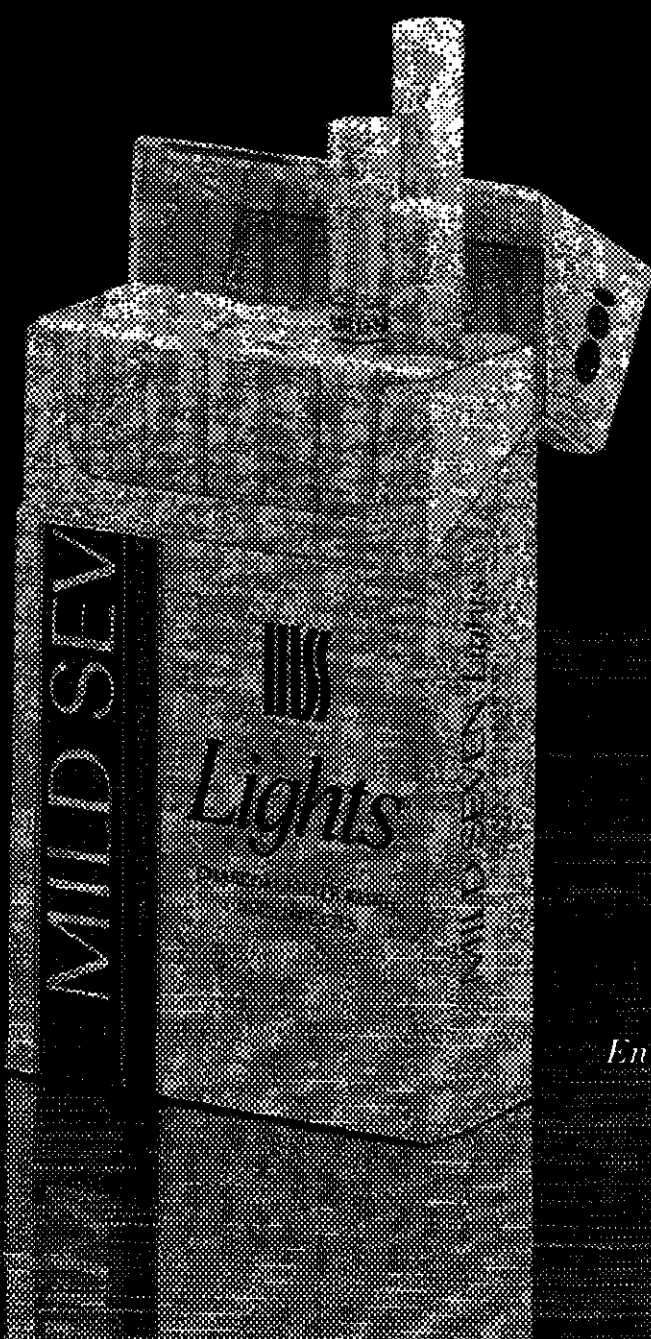
Delgado won the Tour of Spain this year, but dropped out of the Tour of Switzerland before the penultimate leg with a more than 30-minute deficit.

Roche was sidelined nearly all of last year with knee injuries, but in 1987 he won the Tour de France, Tour of Italy, and the World Championship.

LeMond has not shown much after being shot in a hunting accident.

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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

100m record

OSLO, June 30, (Reuters): Olympic champion Carl Lewis said today there was overwhelming evidence to support taking away Ben Johnson's world 100 metres record.

Italian referee

ROME, June 30, (Reuters): Italy's top soccer referee today accused players of acting like hooligans and demanded tougher sanctions to stamp out violence on the pitch.

Napoli appeal

BERNE, June 30, (Reuters): European Football Union (UEFA) Cup winners Napoli of Italy have appealed against a 100,000 Swiss francs (\$59,000) fine for crowd trouble during the first leg of the final last month.

Oleg Blokhin

MOSCOW, June 30, (Reuters): Veteran soccer international Oleg Blokhin swapped sides and scored a goal as a Soviet team and World XI drew 3-3 on Wednesday in a match to honour his long career.

World Cup

ZURICH, June 30, (Reuters): The International Football Federation (FIFA) has slapped an indefinite ban on El Salvador hosting any further World Cup ties after their qualifying match against Costa Rica was abandoned following trouble both on and off the pitch.

Romanian Cup

BUCHAREST, June 30, (Reuters): Steaua Bucharest, beaten in the final of the European Cup by AC Milan last month, completed a League and Cup double by defeating Dinamo Bucharest 1-0 in the Romanian Cup final yesterday.

Italian Cup

CREMONA, Italy, June 30, (Reuters): UEFA Cup champions Napoli suffered their most humiliating defeat of the season as Sampdoria routed them 4-0 to win the Italian Cup on Wednesday.

French Open

CHARENTILLY, June 30, (Reuters): Jose-María Olazabal shot five birdies in heavy rain to lead the French Open yesterday and then slammed his putting as "very poor."

French athlete

PARIS, June 30, (Reuters): Suspended French heptathlete Chantal Beaugnot yesterday denied taking drugs and hit out at the French Athletics Federation.

Drug charge

CLEVELAND, June 30, (Reuters): Kevin Mack, a running back with the Cleveland Browns, has been charged with drug trafficking after being found in a car containing cocaine, police said yesterday.

Liberty Cup

NEW YORK, June 30, (Reuters): New Zealand took the lead in the sixth annual Liberty Cup regatta by winning all five first-round races in New York harbor yesterday.

Rugby Test

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, June 30, (Reuters): France met the All Blacks tomorrow determined to exploit weaknesses in the New Zealand scrum to grab a face-saving victory in the final rugby Test.

Lakers honour Abdul-Jabbar

LOS ANGELES, June 30, (AP): Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who retired at age 42 after two decades on the basketball court — most of them for the Los Angeles Lakers — has received a "Superstar of Sports" award for his career achievements.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley presented the 7-foot-2 (2.18-metre) player with a key to the city during the celebration Saturday at a local health club. The Los Angeles Lakers centre also got a goodbye card as tall as he is, signed by thousands of fans.

"This is great, I mean, they sold the place out," Jabbar said. An estimated 2,300 people attended the send-off.

"We are very proud to honour him for his integrity, durability and unabated sportsmanship," said club president Michael Talla.

French newspapers and radios reported today that Prost had signed for Williams.

"Nothing is decided. Prost will make a statement later to calm things down after everything that has been written in the press this morning. He will undoubtedly say that nothing has been signed," Casin said.

Lions will leave out rough stuff, says McGeechan.

SYDNEY, June 30, (Reuters): Coach Ian McGeechan vowed today his British Lions forwards would leave out the rough stuff in tomorrow's first Rugby Union Test against Australia.

"We're not going out there to kick and maim — we're going out there as a collected, disciplined forward unit," McGeechan told journalists after the lions final training session.

Australian players have complained vigorously about the violence they claim the Lions' pack has employed in the first six games of the 12-match tour, all of which the touring side have won.

McGeechan, who warned his team against indiscipline, said the Lions were merely following the tough rugby cus-

toms of the Southern Hemisphere.

"We are playing the game they play down here. I bet if our boys were wearing a black jersey with a silver fern on it they would not have mentioned it," he said, referring to the New Zealand All Blacks.

Australian coach Bob Dwyer admits the Lions pack makes the touring side

favourites against an underprepared Wallabies side.

"Whenever we first get together again it's always a bit rusty. We're in our worst situation of the series in the first Test and the Lions have their best chance," Dwyer said.

McGeechan said his side were confident ahead of what he called the key to

the whole tour.

"This is what makes the '89 Lions, isn't it? This is the most important one for us — there's a feeling in the camp that they want this test."

McGeechan was relieved when full-back Gavin Hastings, the Lions' most dangerous attacking player, showed no signs of a back injury which had affected him yesterday.

The backs, probably one of the fastest combinations in Lions history, worked hard on various moves, indicating the touring side plan to open up the game rather than rely on forward surges supported by tactical kicking from scrum-half Robert Jones and young fly-half Craig Chalmers.

Navratilova edges Radford

Sabatini knocked out of Wimbledon



Gabriela Sabatini

LONDON, June 30, (Reuters): Eight-times champion Martina Navratilova and Arantxa Sanchez, the new French Open champion, both overcame losing the first set to win their matches on the fifth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships today.

Navratilova, who spent the night considering how she had managed to lose a set to Australian amateur Kristine Radford after play was suspended at one set all because of bad light yesterday, came back to win her second-round match 3-6 6-3 6-3.

Sanchez, 17, the seventh seed, saved two match points in the 10th game of the third set before winning a thumping baseline contest against Italian Raffaella Reggi 4-6 6-3 7-5 to go through to the fourth round.

By contrast defending champion Steffi Graf breezed through her third-round match against another Australian, Anne Minter, in familiar style.

The West German won 6-1 6-3 to set up a meeting in the fourth round with Monica Seles, the 15-year-old Yugoslav who took her to three sets in the semifinals of the French Open three weeks ago.

After a bad day for the women's seeds yesterday Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, the number nine, joined the casualty list today when she was beaten 7-6 4-6 6-4 by Swede Catarina Lindqvist on an outside court.

Seles, the 11th seed, squandered two match points before completing her 6-4 6-3 victory over Czechoslovak Eva Svigerova.

Zvereva, the third top seed to go out in two days, looked unable to hold her concentration in her third-round match. She was a break up in the opening set before Lindqvist broke back and won the set on a tiebreak.

The Soviet teenager needed five set points to win the second set after being broken as she served at 5-3 and then lost a 3-0 lead in the decider as Lindqvist took five games in a row.

Themen's French Open champion, Michael Chang, notched up a second victory over Haitian Ronald Agener, the man he beat in the quarterfinals on his way to victory on the Paris clay.

This time the 17-year-old Chang triumphed 4-6 6-2 6-1 7-5 although he could have won more swiftly.

Yesterday, Gabriela Sabatini's unhappy Grand Slam career was dealt a further blow when she lost in straight sets in the second round.



Sanchez recovers, after falling on the grass, to return the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

World number three Sabatini, who has never managed to win a Grand Slam title in 16 attempts, went out 6-4 6-3 to South African Ros Fairbank, the woman who took Navratilova to a tough three sets in the quarterfinals here last year.

Zina Garrison, the number five, also made a premature exit, while Chris Evert had to battle back from a 5-1 deficit to stay in the tournament.

Mats Wilander, the fourth seed and winner of three Grand Slam events last year, rushed through his meeting with Czechoslovak Karel Novacek to win 6-3 6-0 6-3 before darkness fell yesterday.

Former champion Boris Becker, beaten by Stefan Edberg in last year's final, had a comfortable straight-sets win over American Richard Matsuzewski after waiting 80 minutes for rain to stop.

But John McEnroe, himself a three-times winner of the championship, had a tougher match against fellow-American Richey Reneberg and needed four sets to win.

Sabatini, who lost in the fourth round of the French Open just two weeks after taking the Italian Open title for the second year running, squandered three breakpoints at 5-3 in the second set.

"The match just finished without me," said Sabatini who passed over the chance of competing in any of the English grass court events in the weeks leading up to

Wimbledon to go back to Argentina because she was homesick.

"I couldn't really tell you how I feel at this moment," added Sabatini who had never gone out so early at Wimbledon. "It hasn't really sunk in that I lost."

One of the few moments when Sabatini had control came as Fairbank served for the first set at 5-3. The Argentine broke her but then let her concentration lapse again as Fairbank immediately broke back to love to take the set.

The unseeded Fairbank, who missed the French Open because it came too soon after her wedding to an American, said the victory rated as one of the biggest successes of her career.

"I have a lot of confidence in my return of serve these days so that does take a little bit of pressure off me on my serving games," she said. "I feel like I can put pressure on the opponents on their serves."

Garrison, like Evert, clawed her way back from a big deficit. But, unlike Evert, the story did not have a happy ending for her and she was beaten 1-6 2-7 5-7 by Australian Louise Field, the world's 121st player.

Garrison, a bronze medalist at last year's Olympics, saved three match points at 5-0 in the deciding set and one more when Field double-faulted at 5-4.

But Field did not let the fifth match point slip and hit a backhand volley which Garrison could not reach.

Three-time champion Evert,

who had expected to meet Garrison in the quarter-finals, found herself swiftly 5-1 down against Chinese-born American Hu Na on the centre court.

But then Evert, 34 and possibly making her swan song at Wimbledon, pulled her game together, broke Hu as she served for the set and won the next nine games on her way to a 7-5 6-3 victory and a third-round meeting with Briton Anne Hobbs.

Swede Mikael Pernfors, the number 15, became the only men's seed to go out yesterday, beaten 7-6 6-2 6-4 by compatriot Peter Lundgren.

Jimmy Connors, twice champion and the most prolific winner in the history of Wimbledon, said goodbye to the 1989 championships after only two rounds on Wednesday, beaten in four sets by unseeded fellow-American Dan Goldie.

Despite the loud support of the Wimbledon crowd, who have supported Connors for 18 years, the 10th seed — at 36 the oldest man in the draw — was beaten 7-6 5-7 6-2 in just under three hours.

Goldie, a former American college champion and 11 years Connors' junior, had never got beyond the first round in three previous trips to the All England Club.

Connors, who won here in 1974 and 1982, admitted he had wasted opportunities. "It was operation successful but the patient died," he said. "I had every chance in the world and I didn't win it. I just didn't work it through."

Results

Results on the fifth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships today (British number denotes seeding): (1-Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) beat Eva Svigerova (Czechoslovakia) 6-4 6-3; 2-Martina Navratilova (US) beat Kristine Radford (Australia) 3-6 6-3 6-3; 1-Steffi Graf (West Germany) beat Anne Minter (Australia) 6-1 6-3; Catarina Lindqvist (Sweden) beat Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union) 7-6 4-6 6-4; 9-Michael Chang (US) beat Ronald Agener (Haiti) 4-6 6-3 7-5; 13-Aaron Krickorian (US) beat Patrick Knudsen (West Germany) 4-6 6-3 6-3; 6-Peter Lundgren (Sweden) beat Ken Flach (US) 6-3 6-2 6-7 (3-7); 6-Michel Schaphers (Netherlands) beat Andrea Gomer (Ecuador) 2-6 7-6 (7-5) 7-5; 6-Chris van Rossum (South Africa) beat Martin Laursen (Denmark) 2-6 7-6 (7-5) 6-2; 2-Scott Davis (US) beat Carl-Live Steeb (West Germany) 7-5 4-6 6-2; 6-Jonas Svensson (Sweden) beat Carl Lumberger (US) 6-4 6-3 7-6 (7-1); Raul Chamberlin (US) beat Nick Fulwood (Britain) 3-6 7-6 (7-2) 6-4 6-2; Dan Castele (US) beat Wally Masur (Australia) 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-1) 3-6 7-6 (7-5); 7-Alexandra Sanchez (Spain) beat Raffaella Reggi (Italy) 4-6 6-3 7-5; David Pace (US) beat Tom Nijssen (Netherlands) 6-2 6-1 6-7 6-3; 15-Stefan Edberg (Sweden) beat Todd Woodbridge (Australia) 6-4 6-4 1-6 7-5 (7-1) Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat Thomas Carbonell (Spain) 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 6-1.



Chris Evert of the United States throws a ball up in the air to serve during her match against Hu Na. Evert won 7-5 6-3. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brazil look for road back to top of world

RIODE JANEIRO, June 30, (Reuters): Brazil, once the dominant force in world soccer, will be looking for their first South American Championship title in 40 years when the 27th edition starts tomorrow.

But doubts surround the current Brazilian team, a pale shadow of the World Cup-winning sides of Pele, Garrincha and Didi, following a disastrous tour of Europe where they lost to Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

They face a strong challenge from Diego Maradona's Argentina, holders Uruguay, and Colombia — the new sensations of South American soccer.

Brazil won the South American Championship the three previous times it was held on their own turf, most recently in 1949. They face minnows Venezuela in their opening match in Group A in the coastal city of Salvador tomorrow.

But the three times world champions will be without Careca, whom Maradona has described as the world's best striker. Careca has dropped out through injury after a long, gruelling season alongside the Argentine captain at Italy's Napoli.

New coach Sebastiao Lazaroni will be hoping Napoli midfielder Alemão and Romário, stocky striker with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, can inspire Brazil to their first major title since Pele lifted the Jules Rimet Trophy in Mexico in 1970.

The championship, which Uruguay won in 1987 in Argentina for the second consecutive time will act as a testing ground for the region's teams preparing for World Cup qualifying rounds starting in August.

World Cup holders Argentina, have, like Uruguay won the trophy nine times, but their failure to clinch it at home two years ago still rankles with Maradona, who is determined to make amends.

With no subsequent World Cup qualifiers to worry him, because Argentina as holders get an automatic place in Italy, coach Carlos Bilardo has said the championship will help him find the team to defend their title next year.

The world champions start out in Group B in Goiania, near Brasilia, against Chile, surprise runners-up in 1987.

But perhaps the greatest hopes are being pinned on the classy Colombians, coached by Francisco Maturana.

Maturana has moulded an attractive, attacking side in the true South American tradition and only lack of experience saw them fall to Chile in the semifinals in Argentina, although they went on to beat the world champions and take third place.

After guiding Atletico Nacional to victory in the South American Libertadores Cup club championship in May, Maturana will be looking to inspire Colombia to the country's first international trophy at senior level.

Bin Sulayem takes rally lead

ISTANBUL, Middle East champion Mohammed bin Sulayem was last night producing a magnificent performance in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4 as he surged into an early lead in the Gunaydin Turkish International Rally.

Flying Finn Tommi Makinen was making a strong challenge in second place, while defending champion Emre Yertiel and the great French ace, Jean Ragnotti, were both finding it difficult to stay in touch with the UAE driver.

After three special stages Sulayem and his Irish co-driver, Ronan Morgan, led by four seconds from Makinen in his Lancia Delta Integrale. Driving another Lancia, Turkish champion Yertiel was lying third another 26 seconds further adrift, with Ragnotti following in fourth position.

Clearly, Sulayem was in no mood to be intimidated by the reputation of Ragnotti — the overwhelming favourite to win this event — or anyone else. Acknowledged as one of the world's most skilled rally stars and a former stunt-driving expert in films, the brilliant Frenchman had been expected to take an immediate lead.

Instead, with the route following Turkey's Black Sea coast and being run exclusively in Asia on the opening day, it was Sulayem who set the pace.

Having finished second in Turkey last year — the best ever European Championship performance by an Arab driver — he wants passionately to go one better this time.

Prost is known to be unhappy at McLaren. He has complained that Brazilian team-mate and title-holder Ayrton Senna has received more favourable treatment.

Prost clocked the fastest time of three days of intensive testing in advance of next month's British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Thursday, but he was guarded about his future plans.

"I hope to stay in motor racing in the future as I love it and I still love driving," he said. "I cannot say any more at the moment."

At McLaren headquarters in Woking, southern England, a spokesman said no decision had been taken over Prost's future

Landry hailed as living legend

WASHINGTON, June 30, (AP): Fired Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry, whose unflappable finesse unseated Washington players for nearly three decades, returned to rival Redskins territory yesterday to be hailed as a living legend.

Sitting next to his bitter rival of the 1970s, former Redskins coach George Allen, Landry was praised by a string of ex-Redskins players at a luncheon honouring his induction into the touch-down club of Washington Hall of Fame.

and no contracts had been signed.

McLaren "can categorically say that there is no contract with any other team," sponsorship co-ordinator Peter Burns said.

He said managing director Ron Dennis had been holding discussions with Prost for several weeks and last spoke to him last night.

Reports in the French press were purely speculative, Burns said.

"An announcement will be made when Alain Prost and McLaren are ready to make it," he added.

Yesterday Prost clocked a best time of one minute 09.46 seconds in the closing 20 minutes of the final day when sunshine dried the track.

Lawson seeks to close 16-point gap on Rainey

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, June 30, (Reuters): Eddie Lawson must close the 16-point gap on world championship leader Wayne Rainey in the Belgian Motorcycle Grand Prix on Sunday.

Only six rounds of the 15-race series remain, so the reigning 500cc title-holder from California cannot afford to lose any more ground.

But the odds are against him. Yamaha rider Rainey achieved his third win of the season when he beat his compatriot in the Dutch Grand Prix last Saturday.

Lawson, who switched from Yamaha to Honda this year, has just one victory though he hopes to excel on the fast, picturesque seven-kilometres Ardennes circuit.

"There's still six more races to go but Wayne is making it difficult with his consistent riding. I just hope we can out-run him and start to cut into the points difference," said Lawson, who holds the Spa lap record.

"I'm looking forward to riding at Spa because I think it will suit the power of the Honda. It's a fast track and my bike is fast," Lawson added.

Last year's winner and former world champion Wayne Gardner is also savouring Belgium, but for very different reasons.

Gardner won in his native Australia in April but broke his leg a week later in the US Grand Prix. He made his comeback at Assen and finished sixth.

Korchnoi and Timman back in top ten

LUCERNE, Switzerland, June 30, (Reuters): Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland and Dutchman Jan Timman moved back into the top 10 world chess ranking in standings issued by the International Chess Federation yesterday.

In the women's section of the half-yearly rankings Hungary's 13-year-old prodigy Judit Polgar stayed at the top, while her elder sister Zsuzsa moved into second place.

Men's top ten:

1. Gary Kasparov (Soviet Union) 2775 points
2. Anatoly Karpov (Soviet Union) 2755
3. Equal Vassily Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) Nigel Short (Britain) 2660
4. Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) 2655
5. Galery Salov (Soviet Union) 2645
6. Mikhail Gurevich (Soviet Union) 2640
7. Equal Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia), Jan Timman (Netherlands), Ulf Andersson (Sweden) 2635

Women:

1. Judit Polgar (Hungary) 2555
2. Zsuzsa Polgar (Hungary) 2520
3. Maya Chiburdanidze (Soviet Union) 2495
4. Pia Cramling (Sweden) 2480
5. Nana Ioseliani (Soviet Union) 2470
6. Nana Gargindashvili (Soviet Union) 2435
7. Elena Akhmedovskaya (Soviet Union) 2430
8. Kvetana Arakhamia (Soviet Union) 2405
9. Anna Akhsharumova (US) 2395
10. Nana Alexandria (Soviet Union) 2375

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